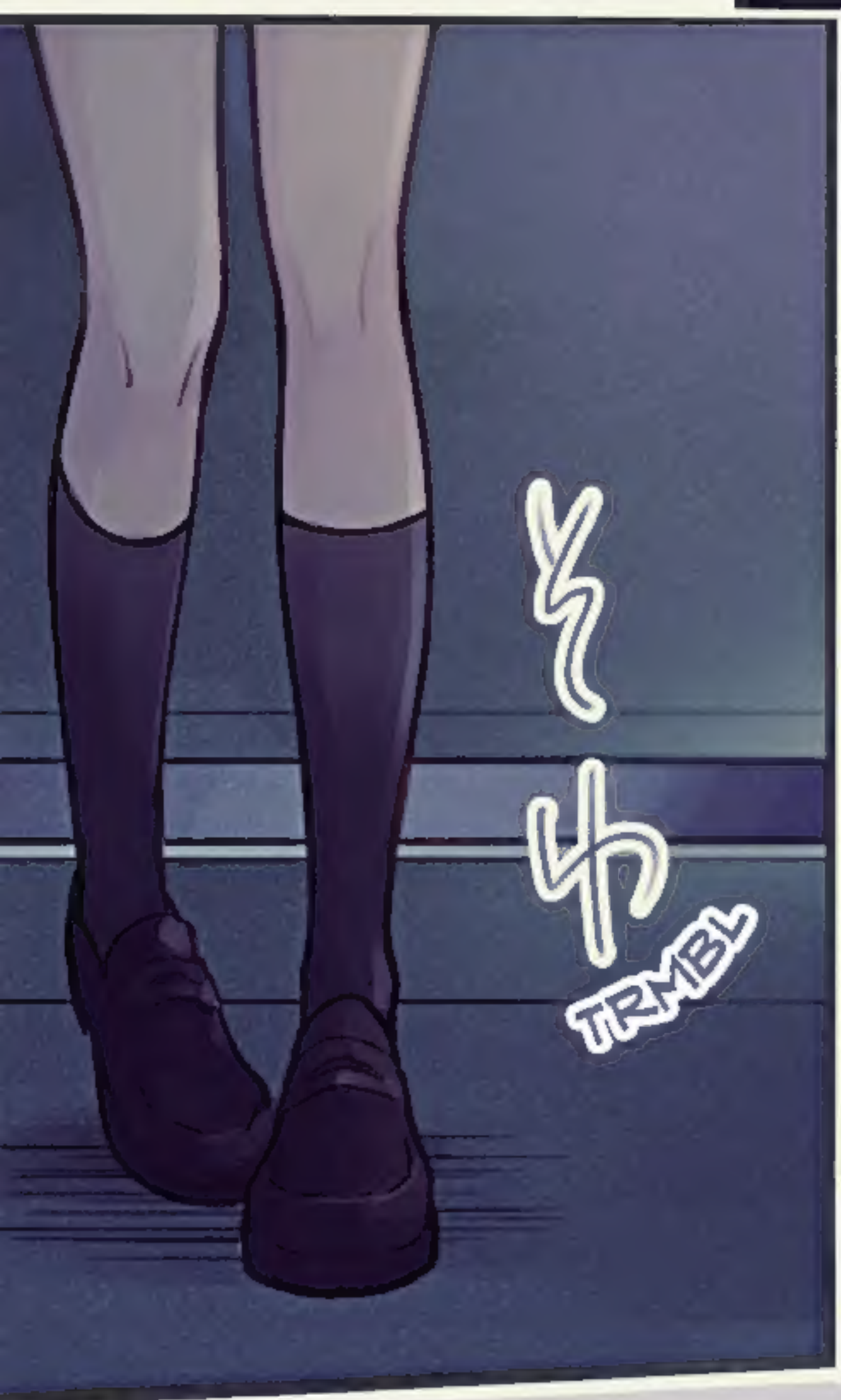


3

tMnR

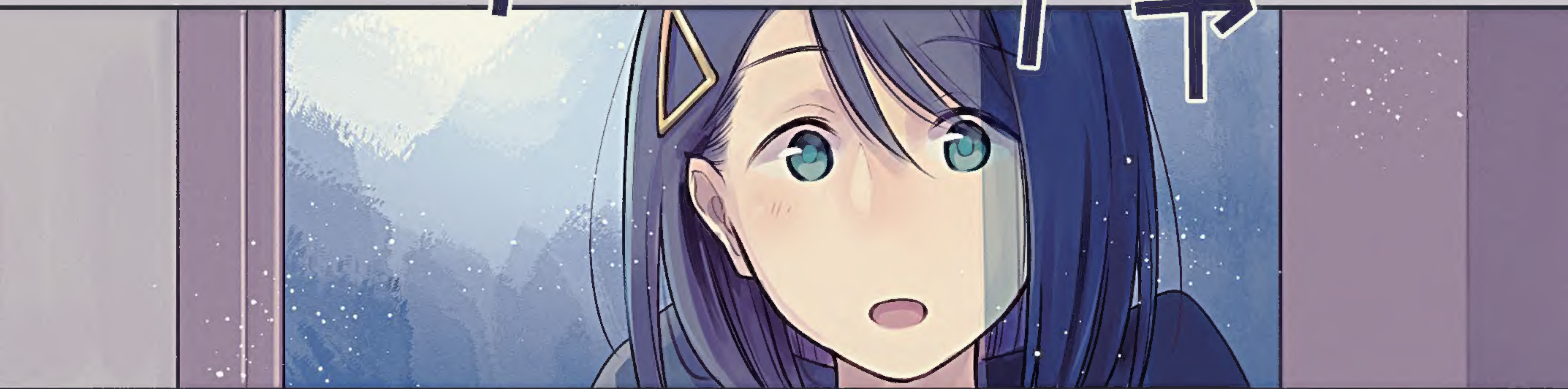
If I Could
Reach You



GA-
711

CHAK
7

7



If I Could
Reach You 3
tMnR



If I Could Reach You

3

C O N T E N T S

Chapter 11

001

Chapter 12

035

Chapter 13

065

Chapter 14

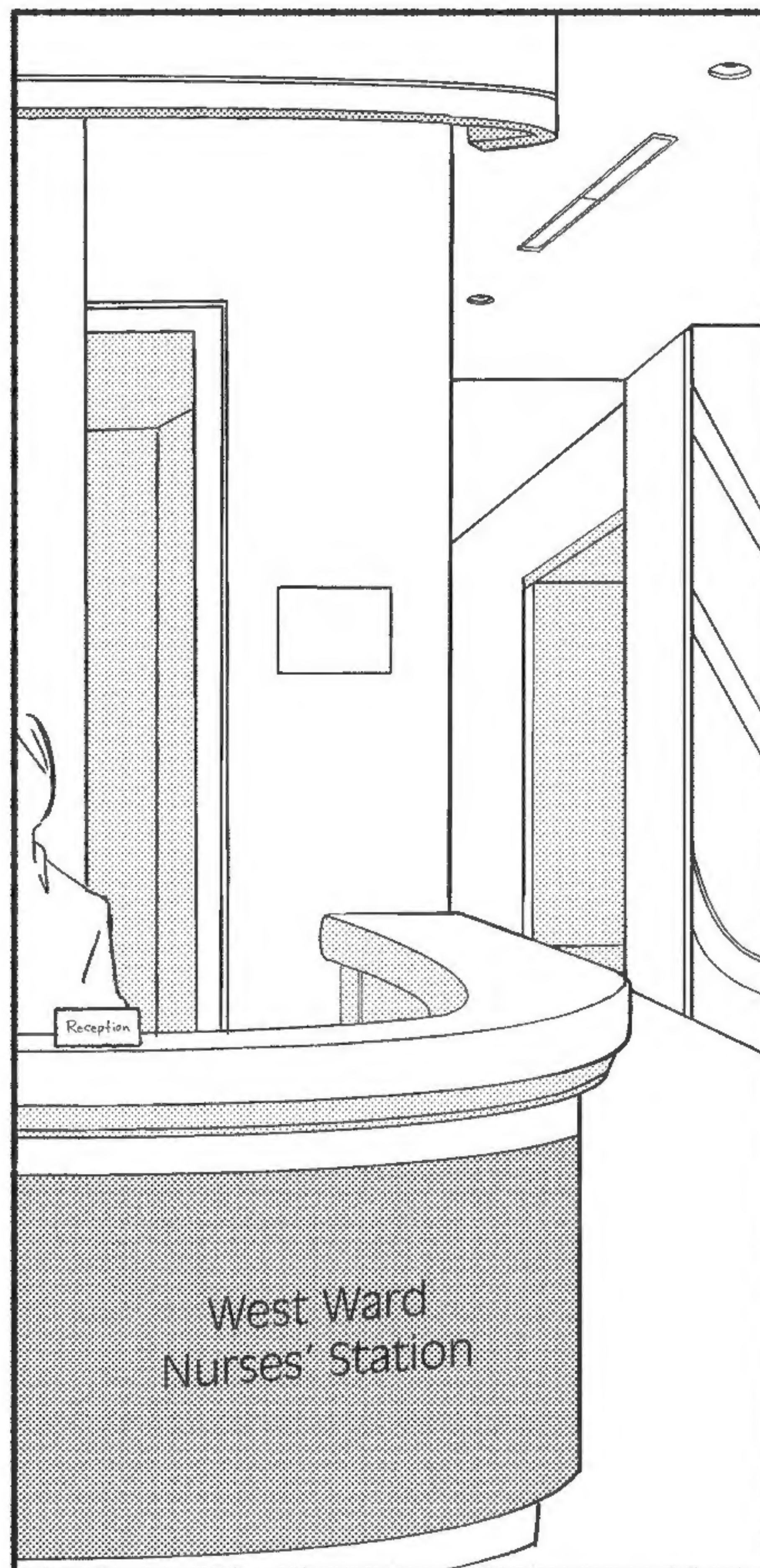
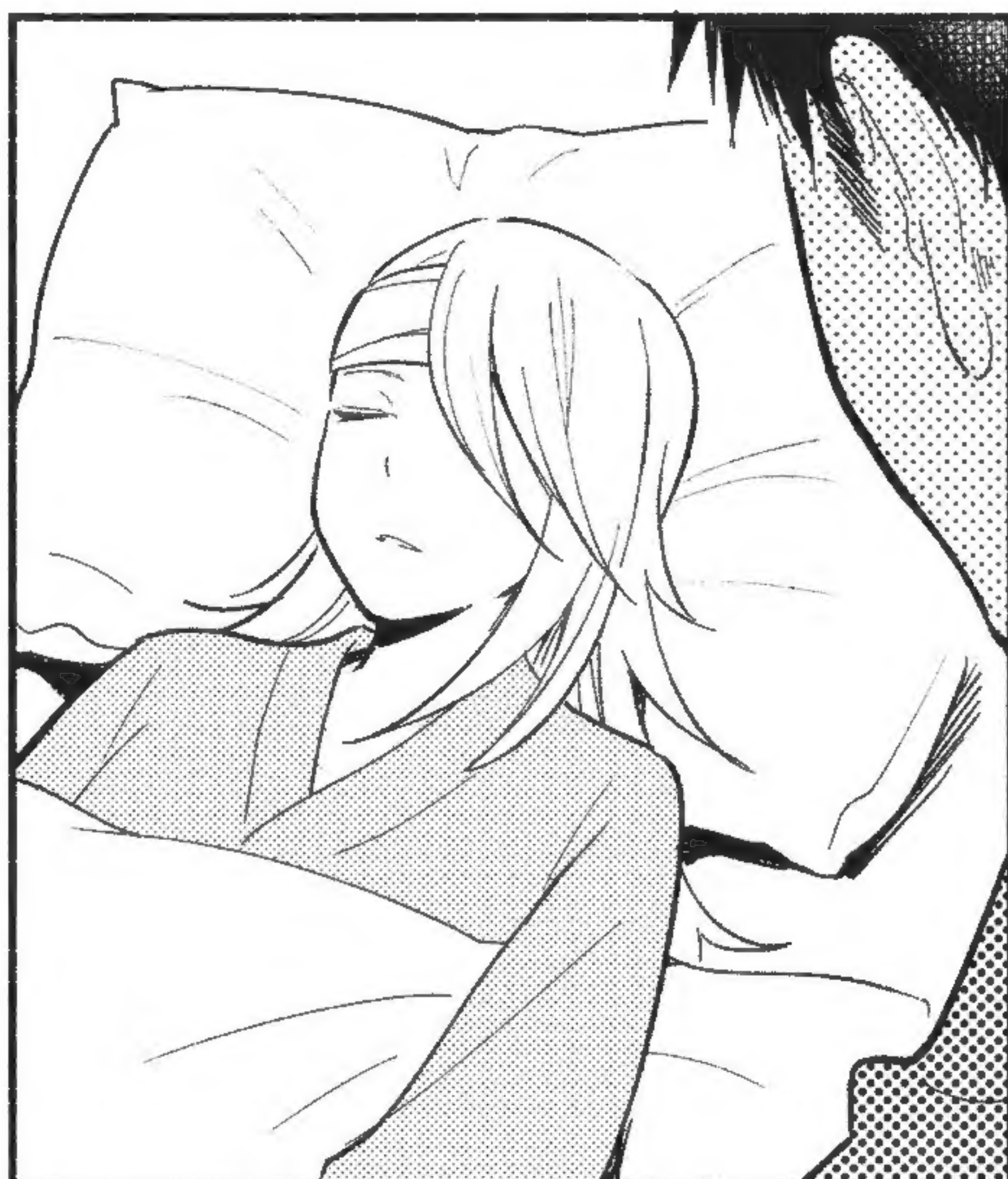
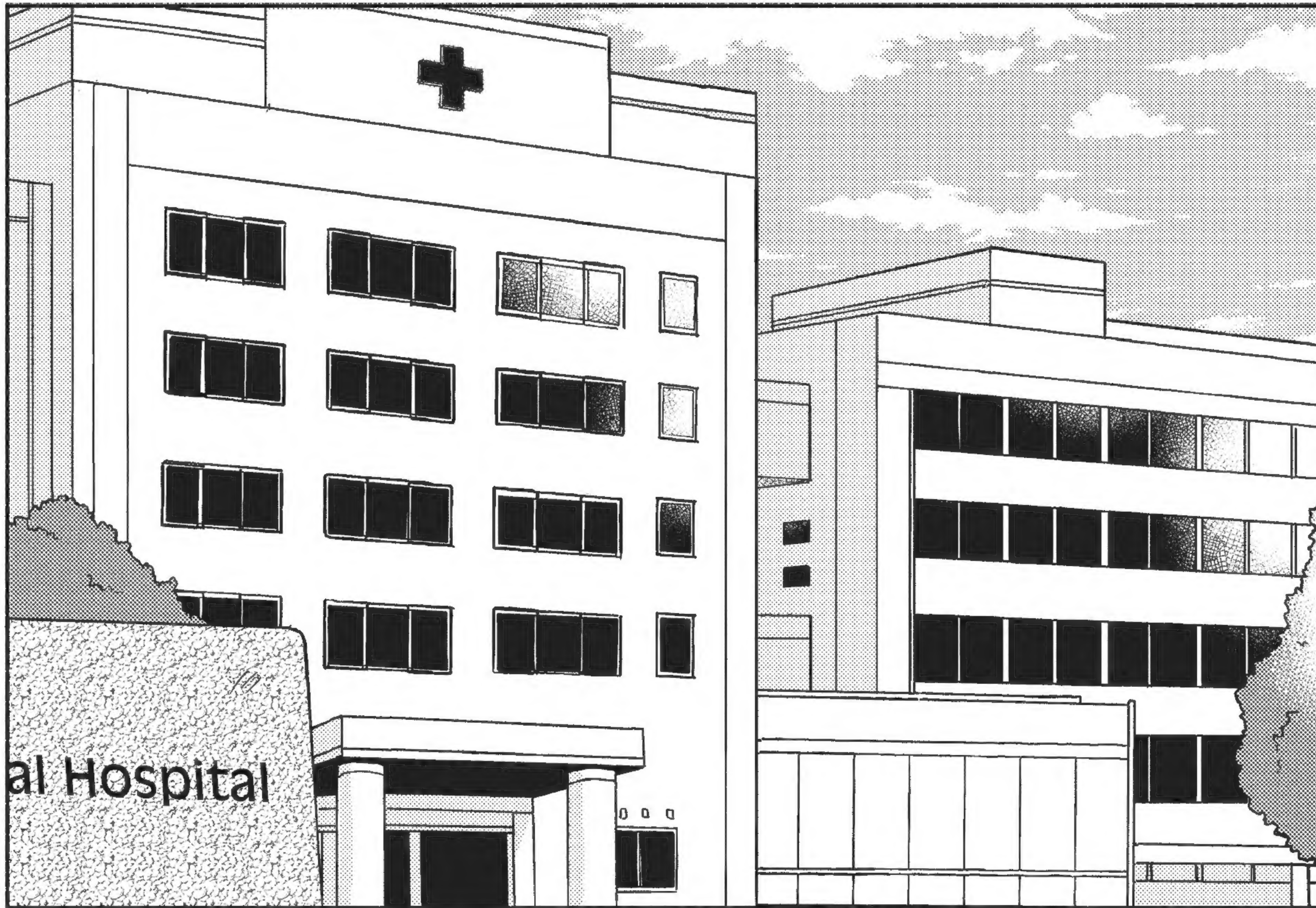
093

Chapter 15

127

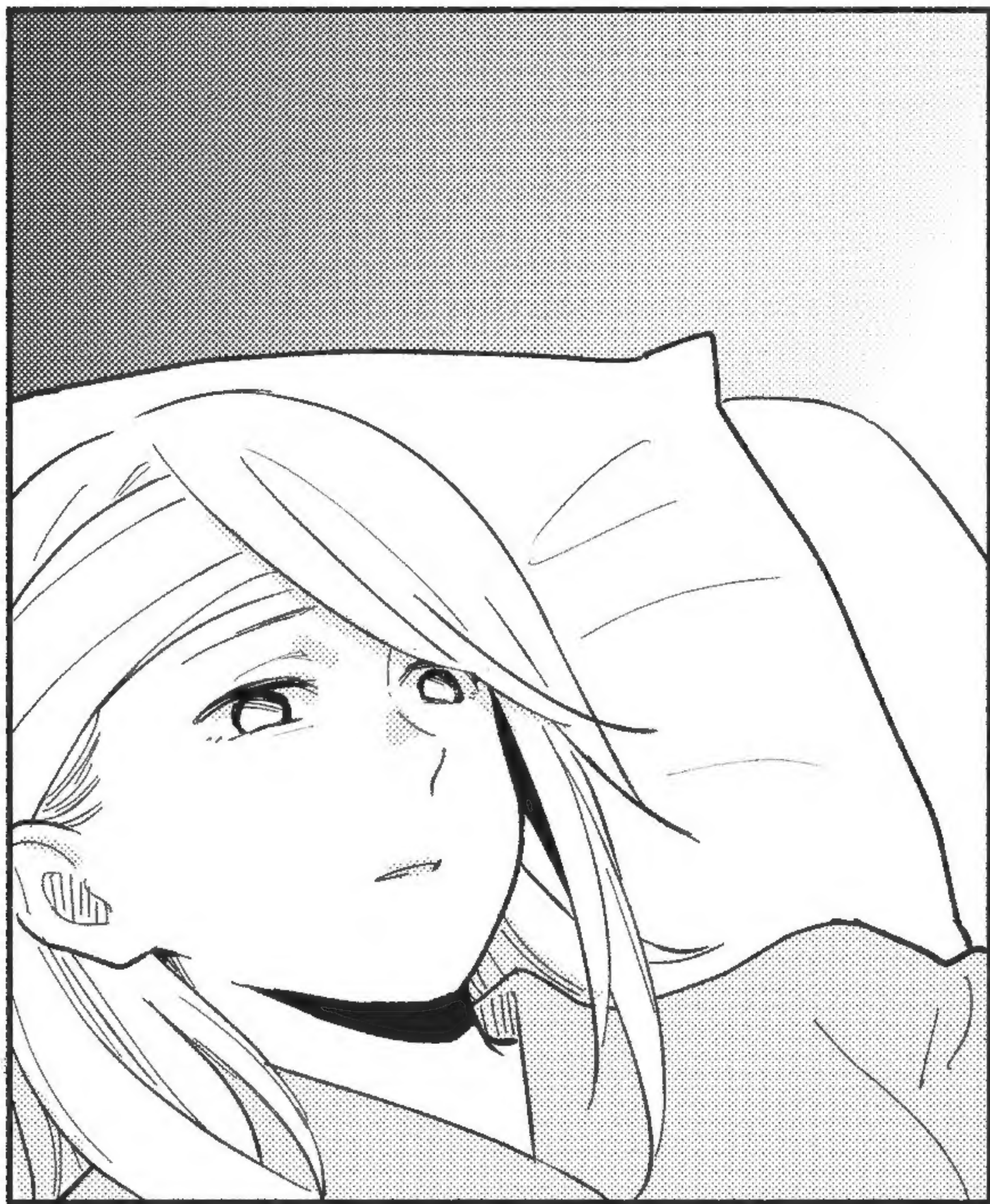
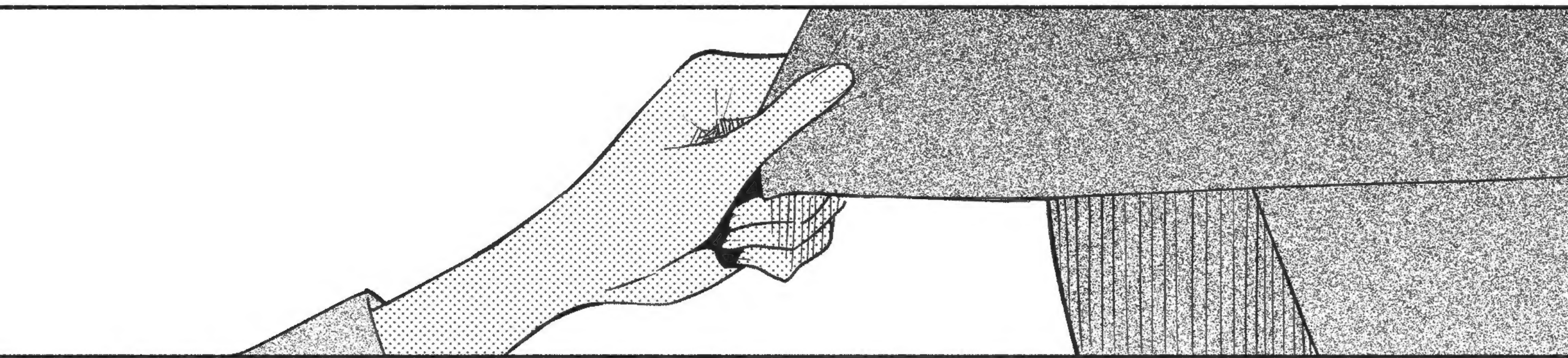
Afterword

163



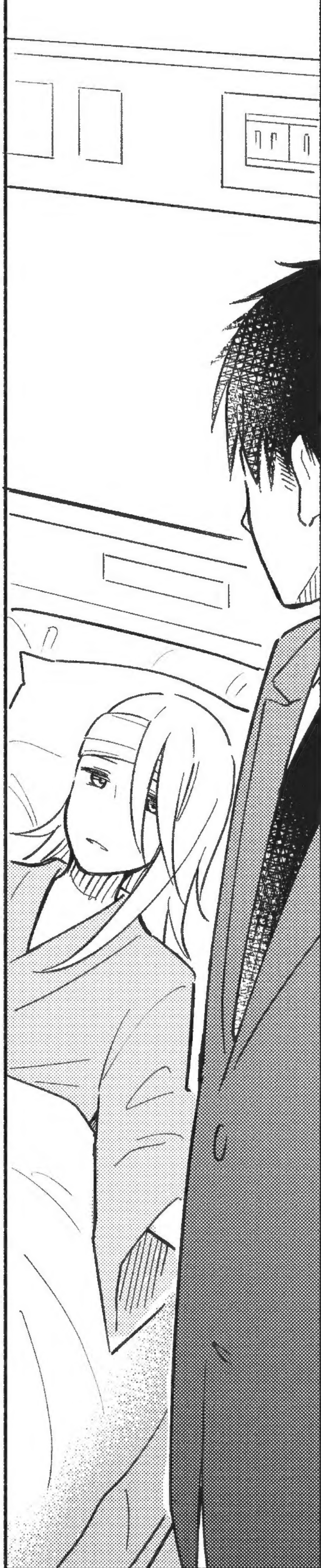


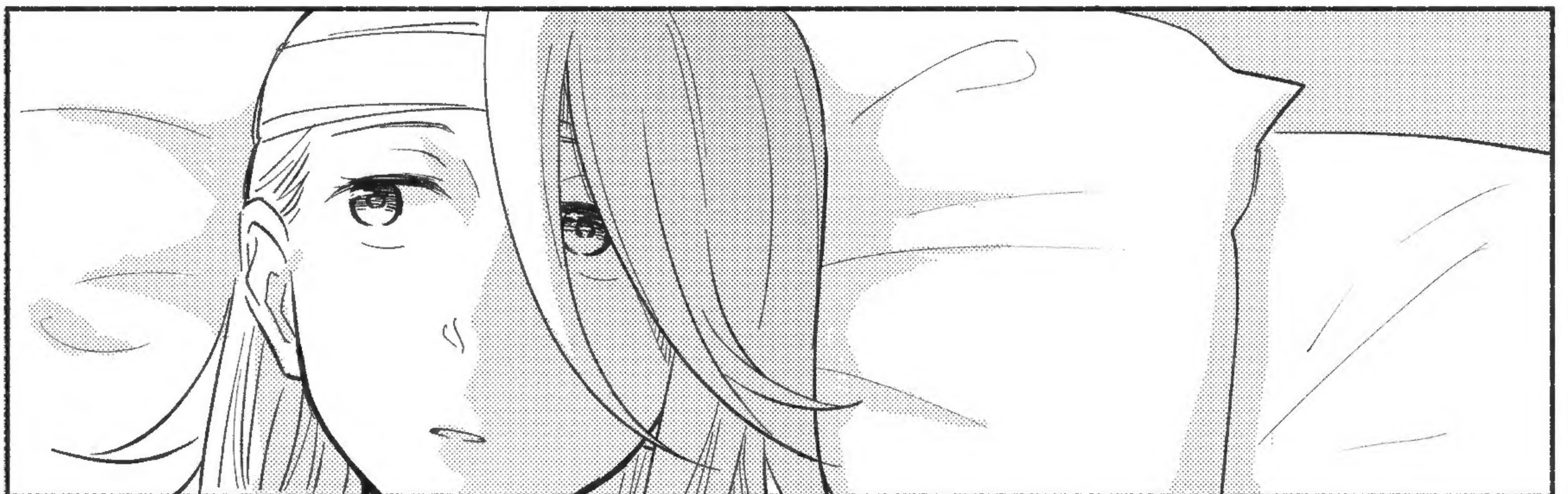
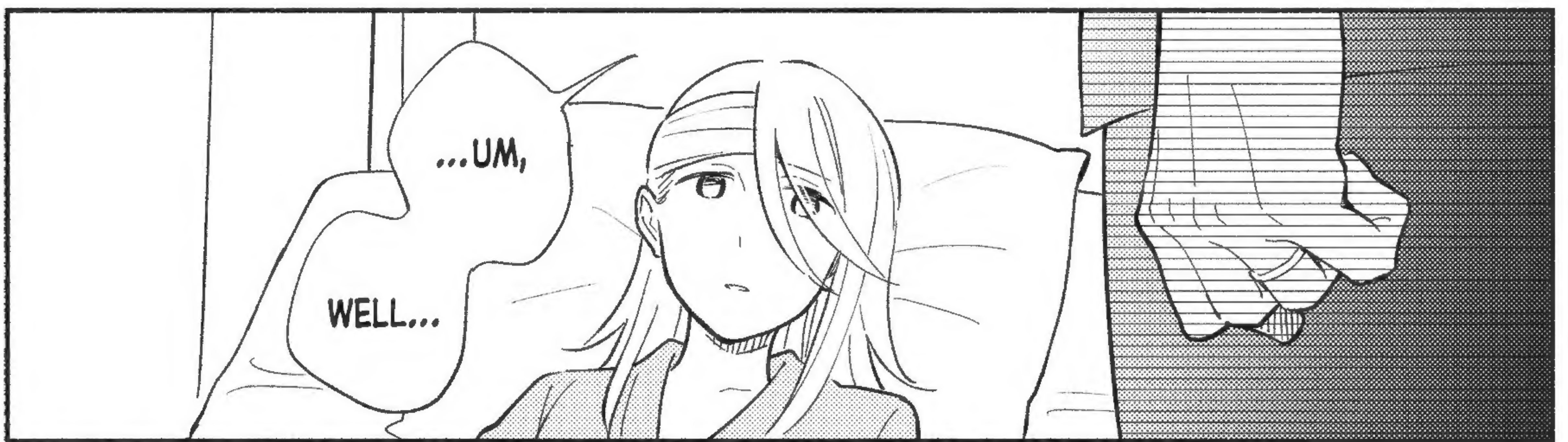
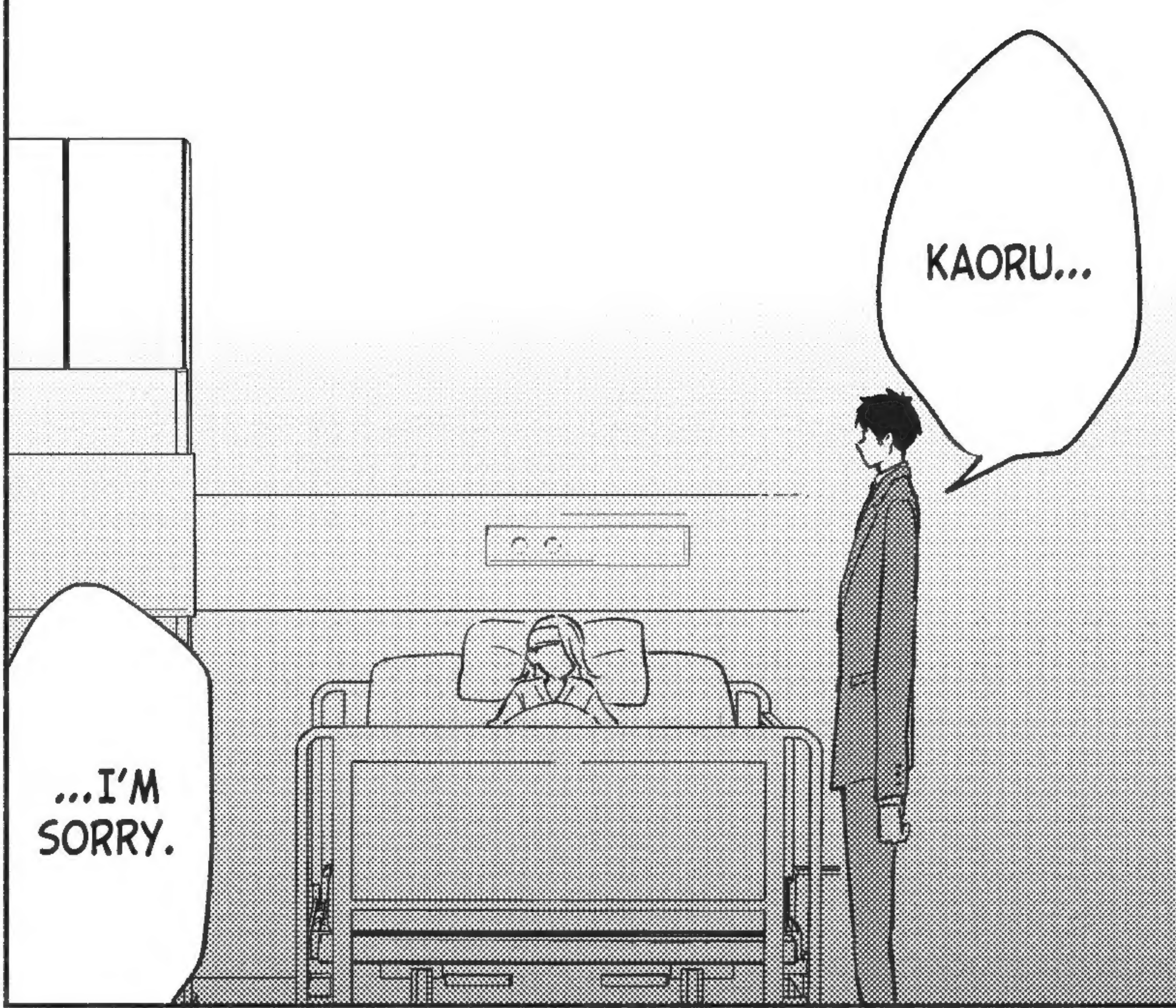


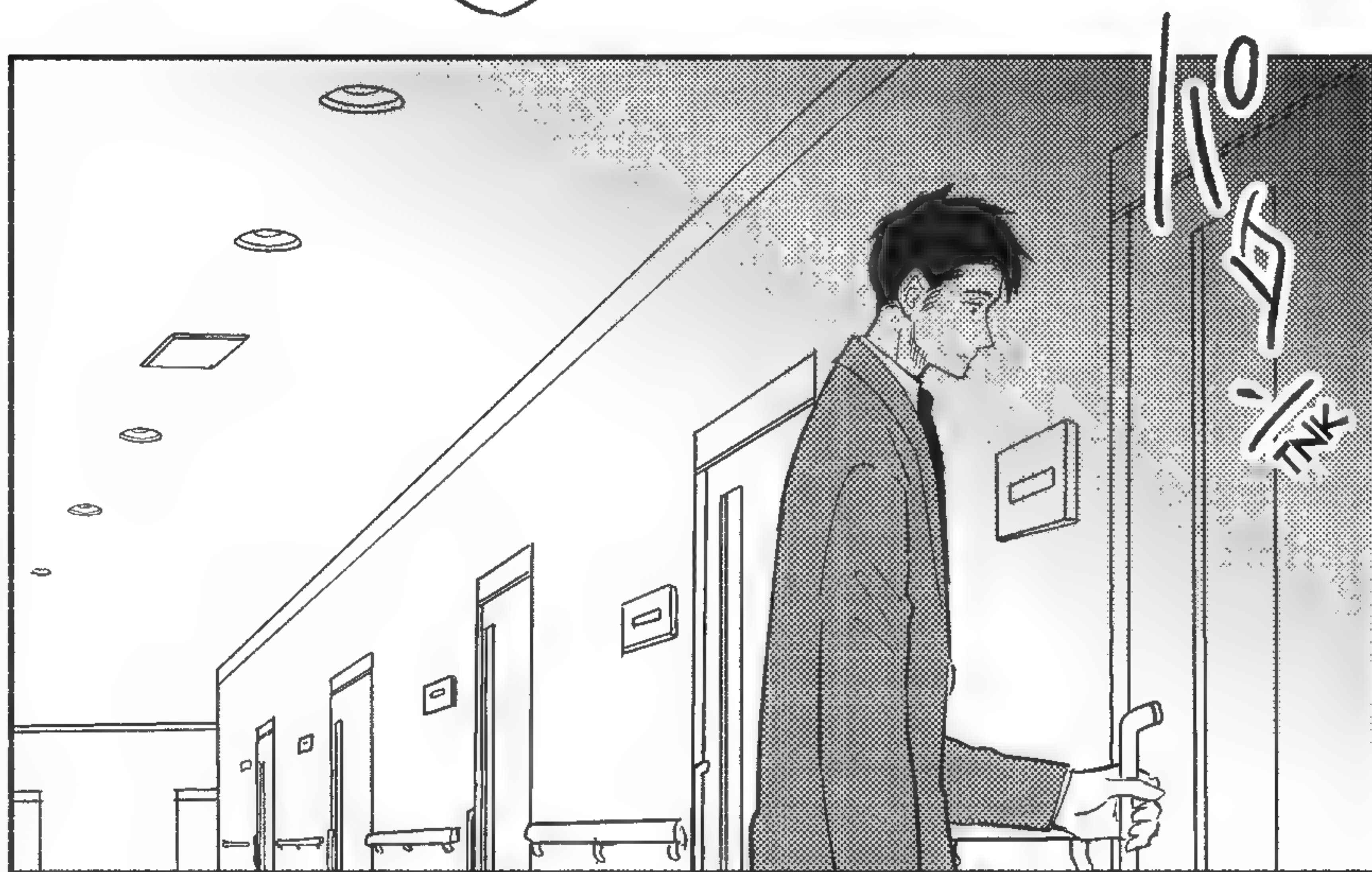


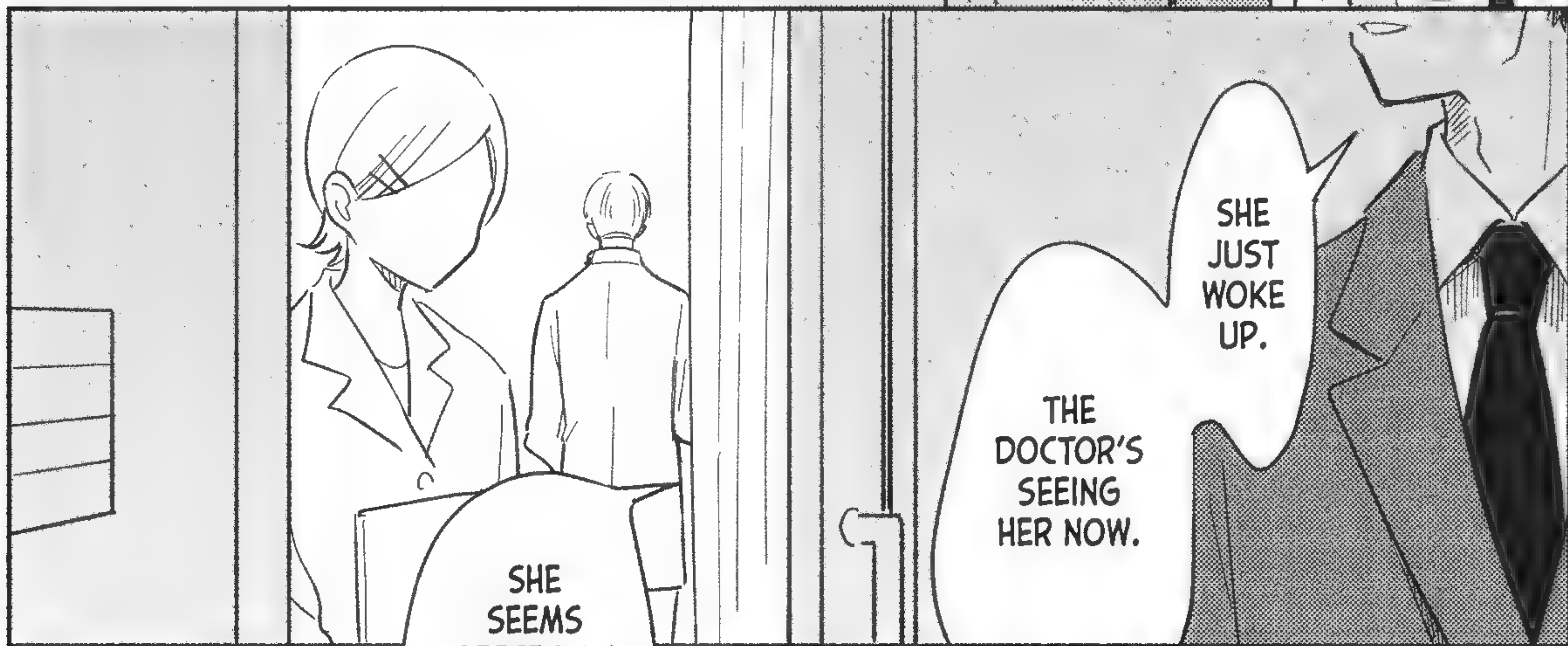


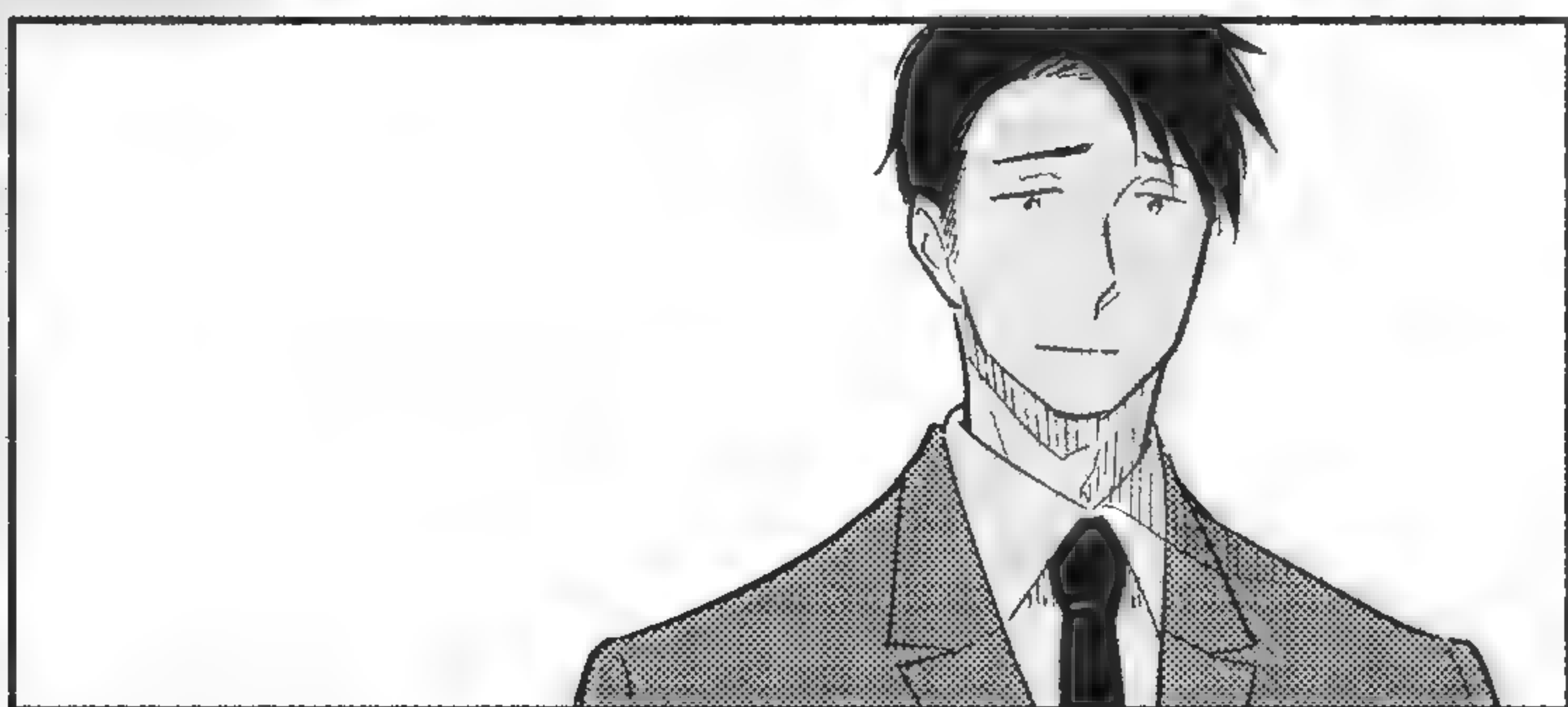
DON'T
GO.

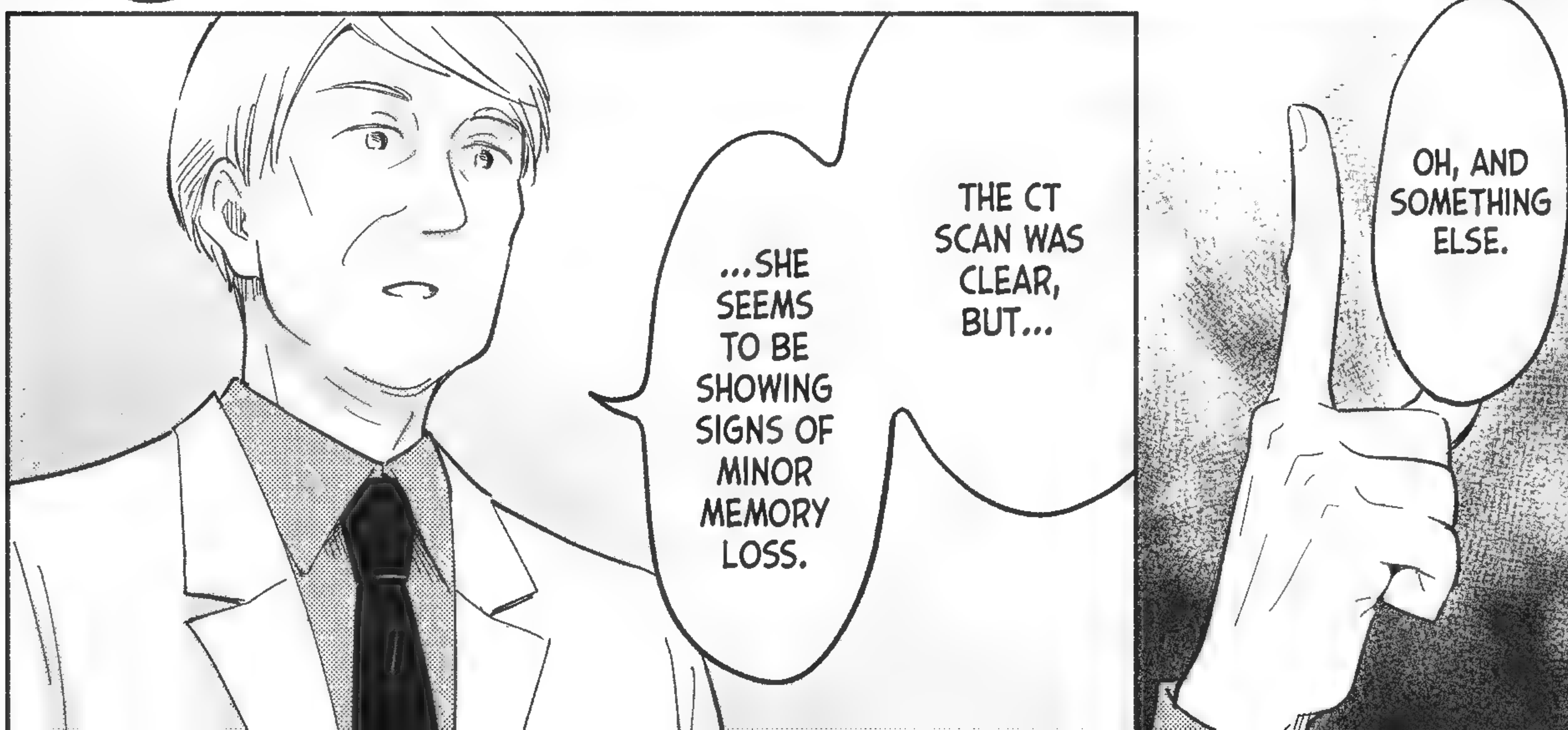


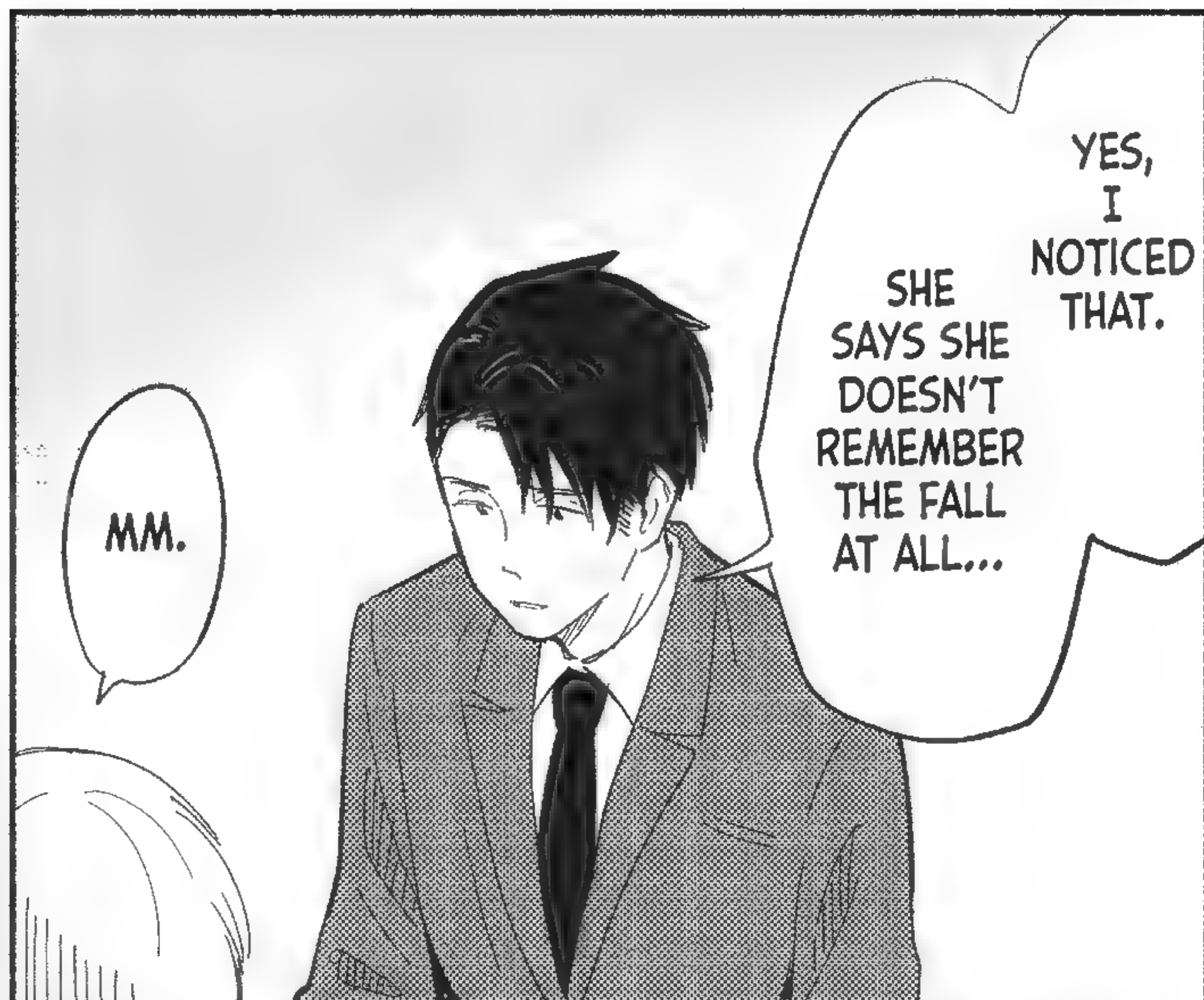


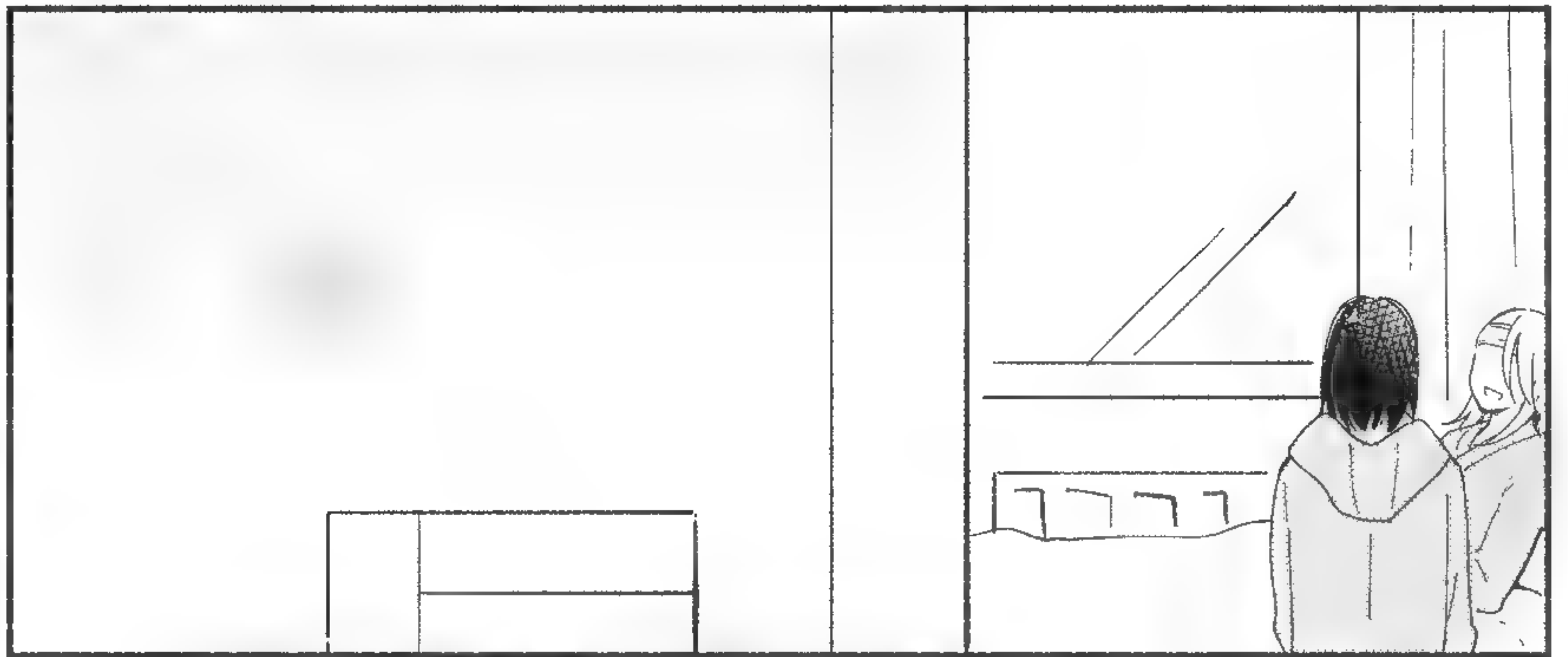
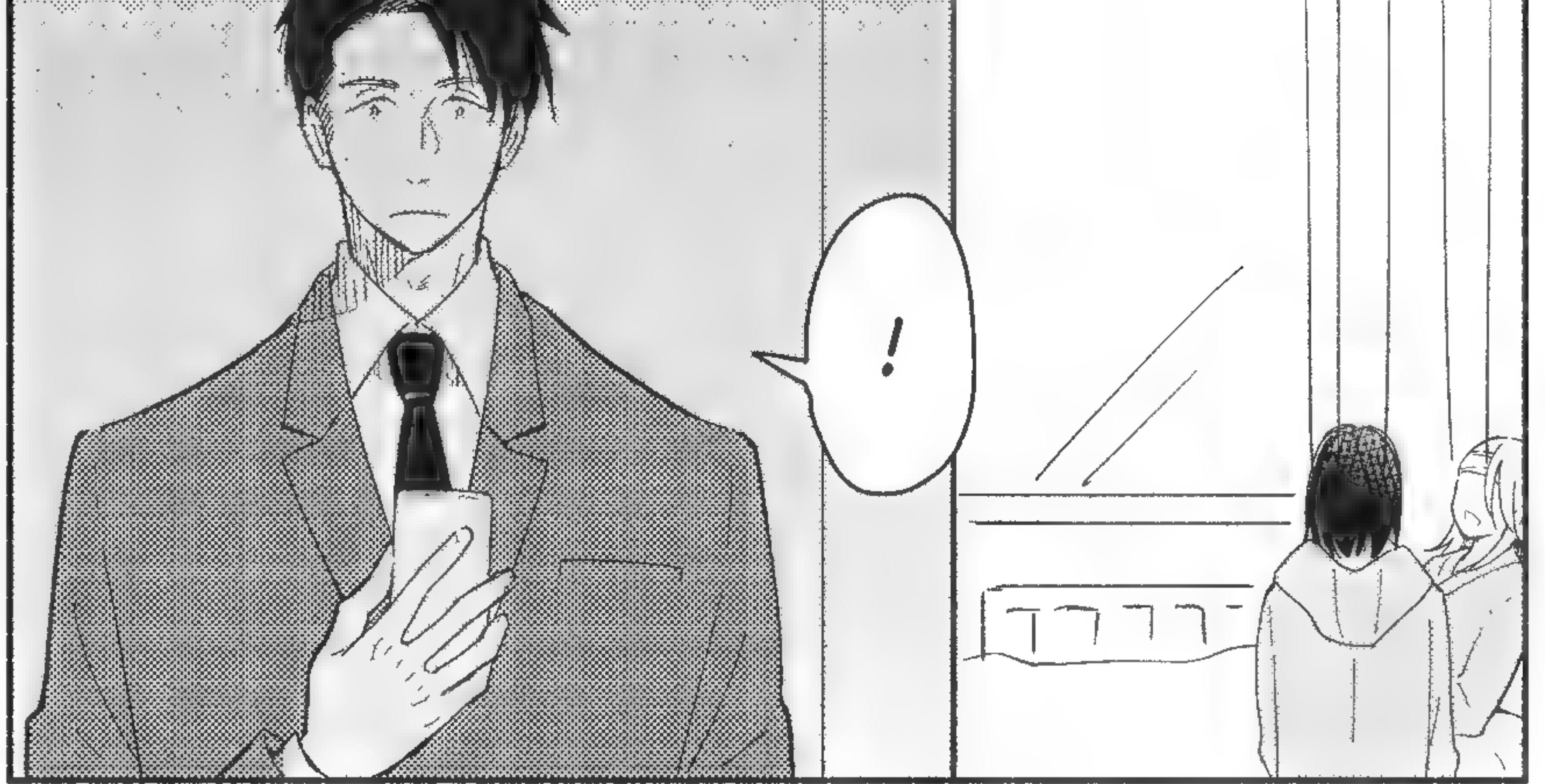


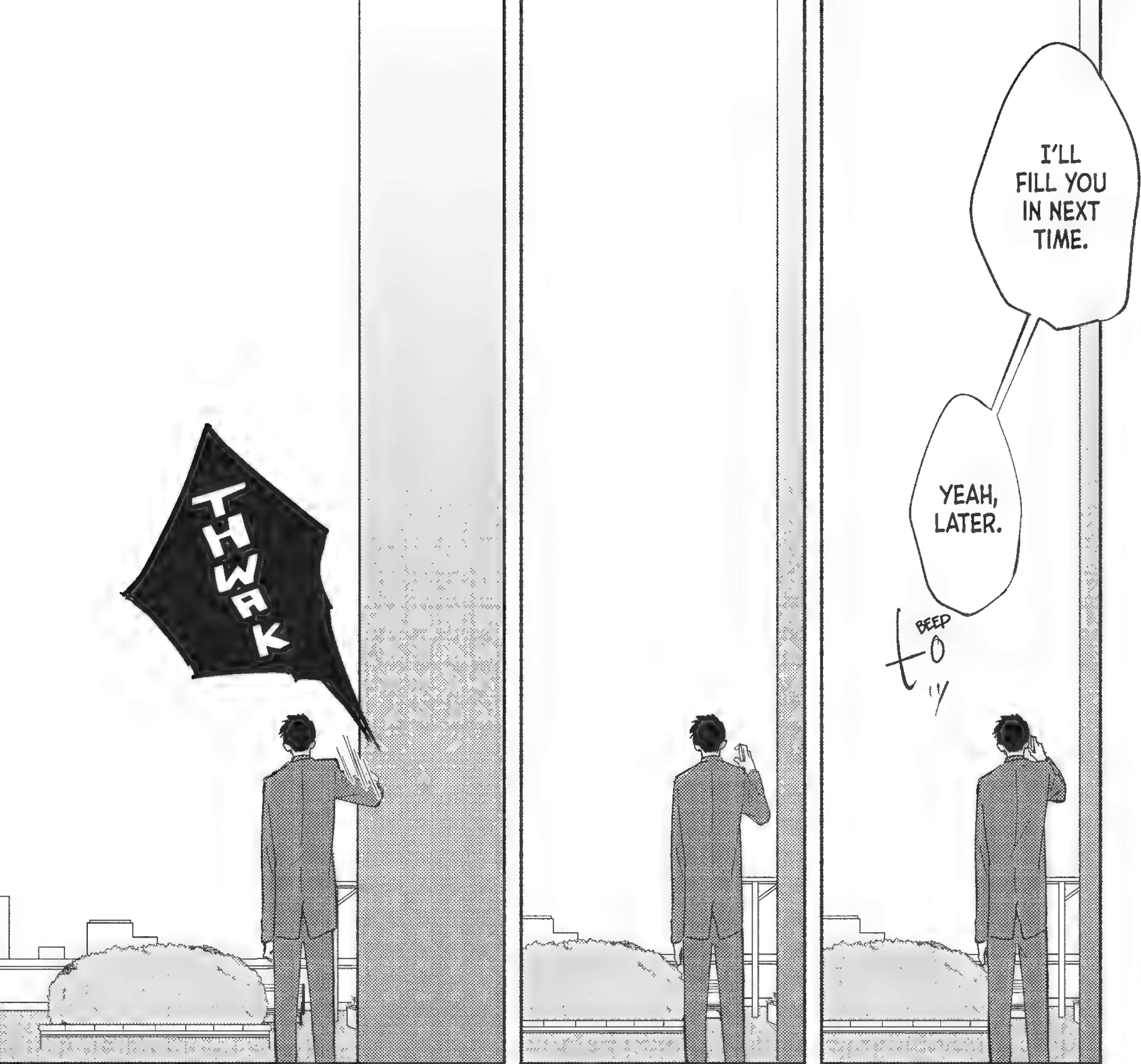






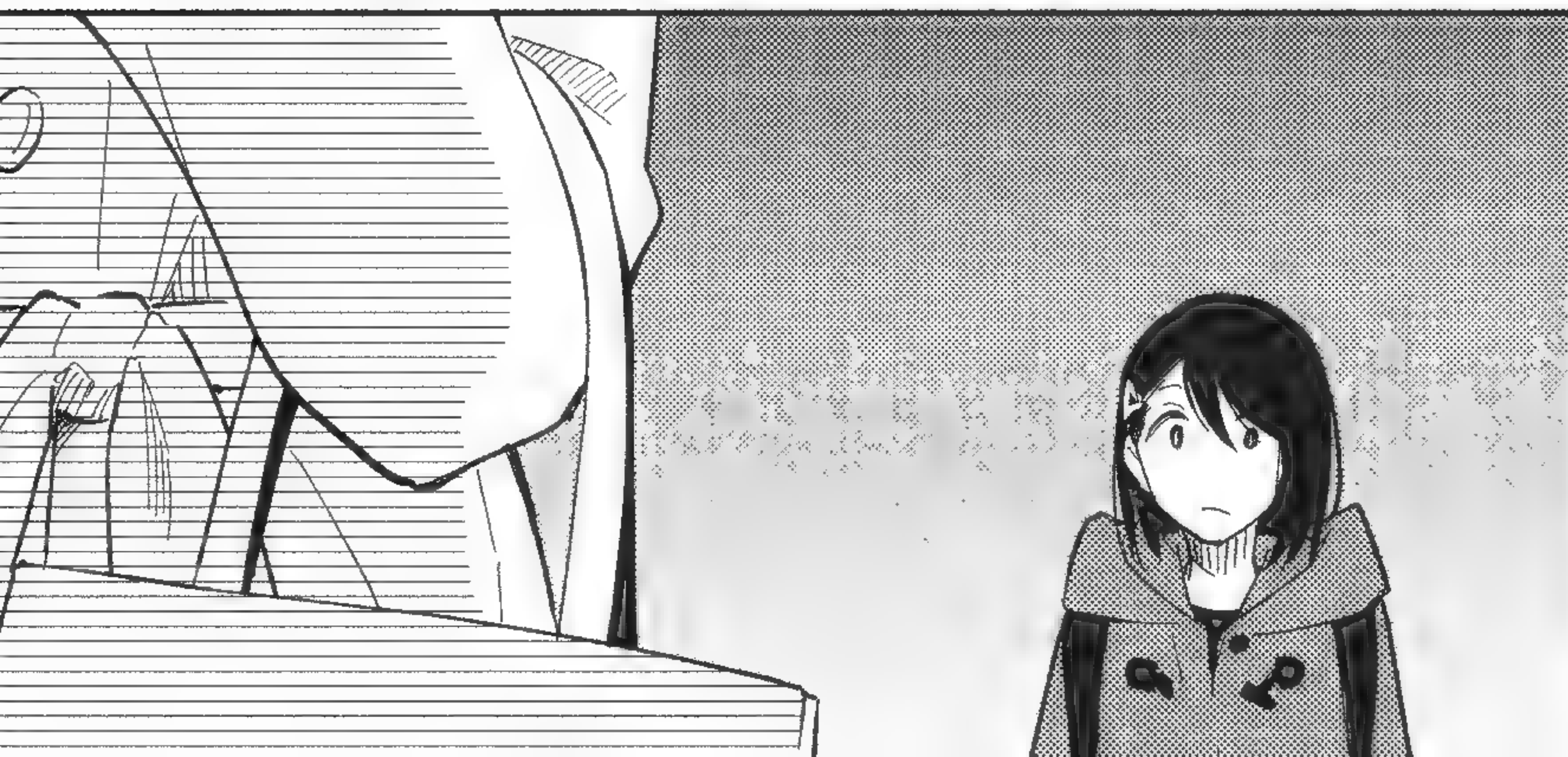
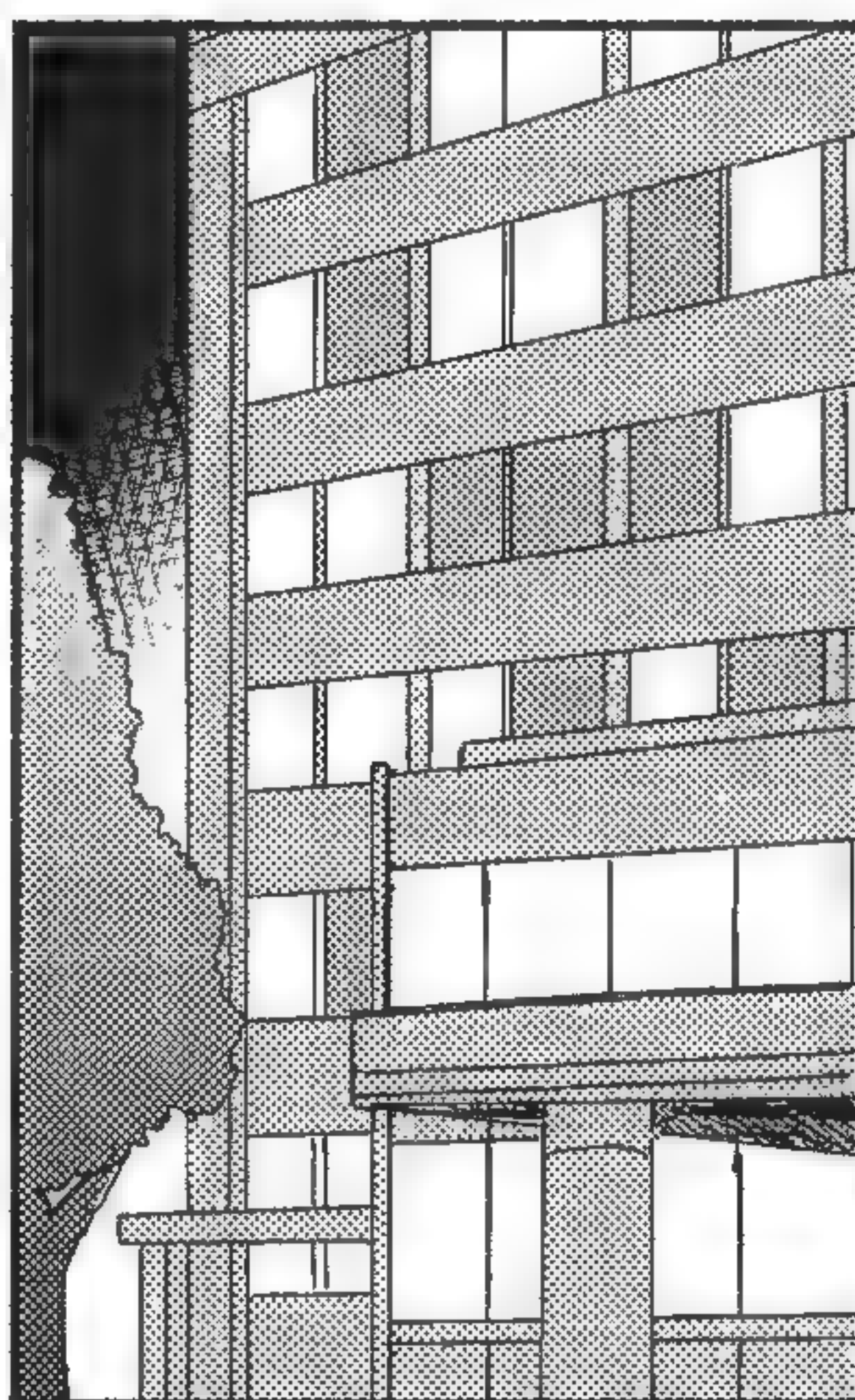
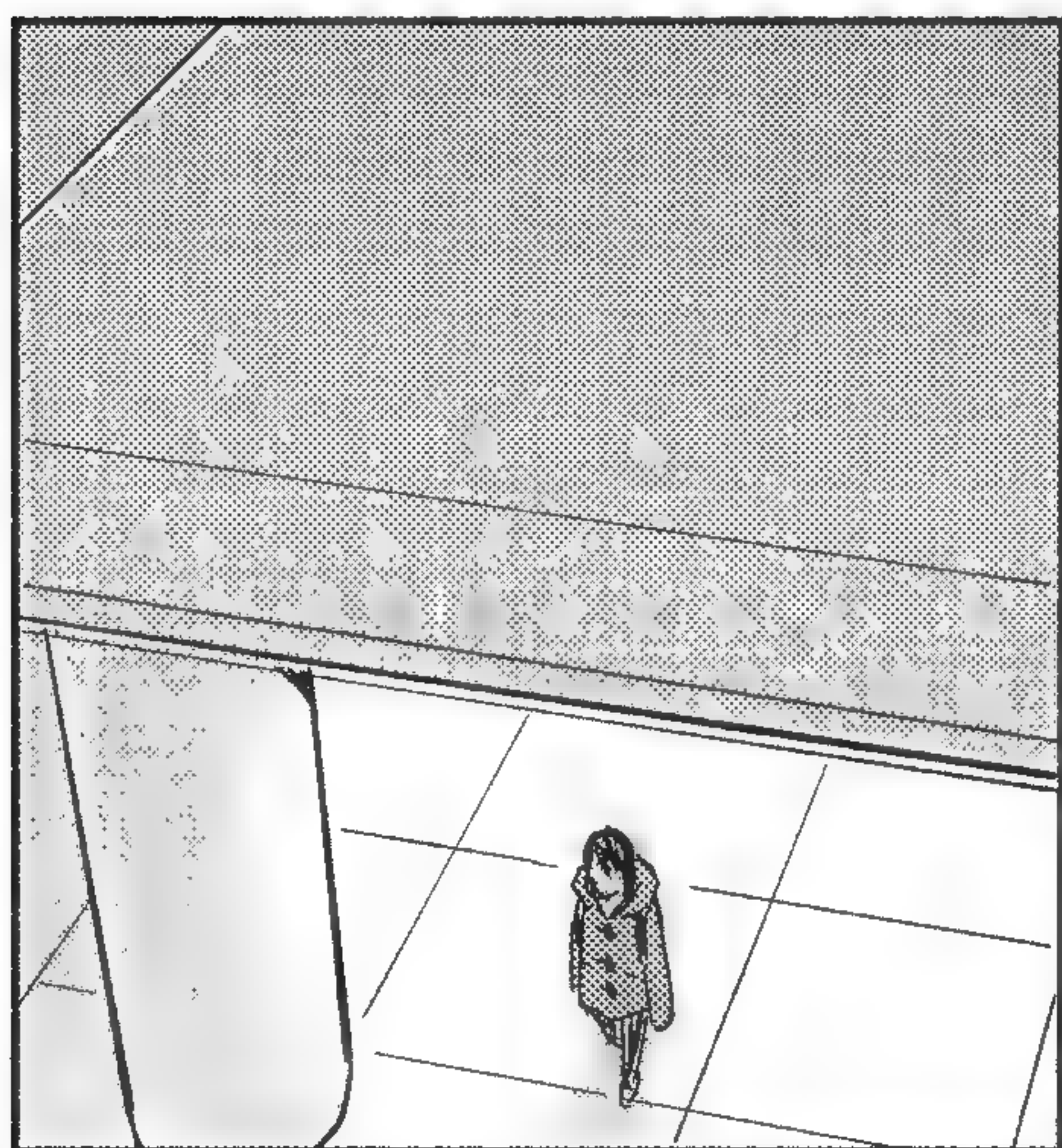


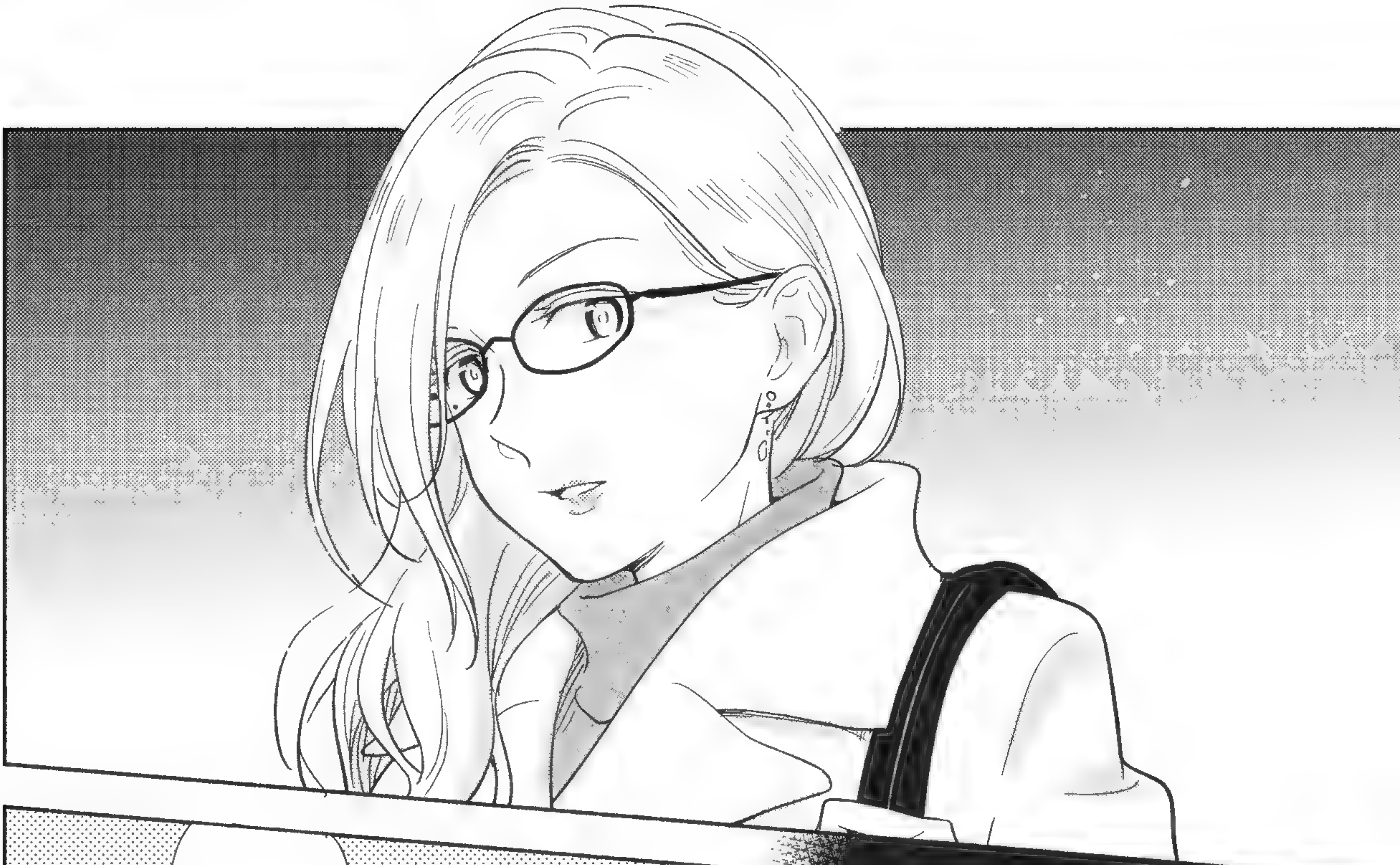




WHAT
THE *HELL*
AM I
DOING...?







I WAS.

BUT IT
LOOKS
LIKE
I MISSED
VISITING
HOURS.

ARE
YOU HERE
TO VISIT
HER?

Y-
YEAH...

OH,
HELLO!

YOU'RE
KAORU'S
LITTLE
SIS,
AREN'T
YOU?



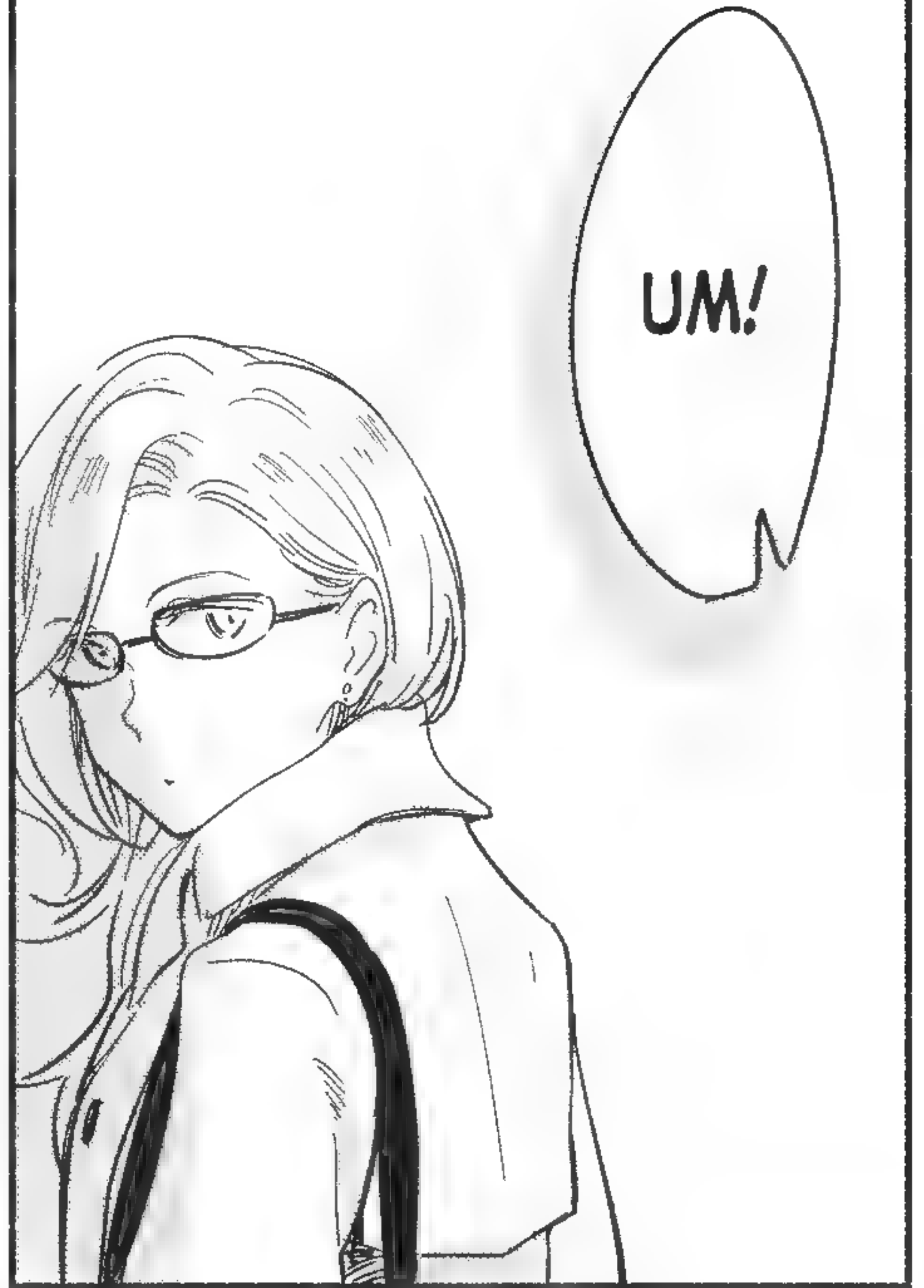
IT'S
TOO BAD.
ANYWAY,
I'M HEADING
HOME NOW.





I'LL
BE...

...COMING
BACK
TOMORROW,
IF THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU'D LIKE
ME TO GIVE
HER?



UM!



NO
PROBLEM.

REALLY?

NICE
TO KNOW
I DIDN'T
COME HERE
FOR
NOTHING,
THEN.

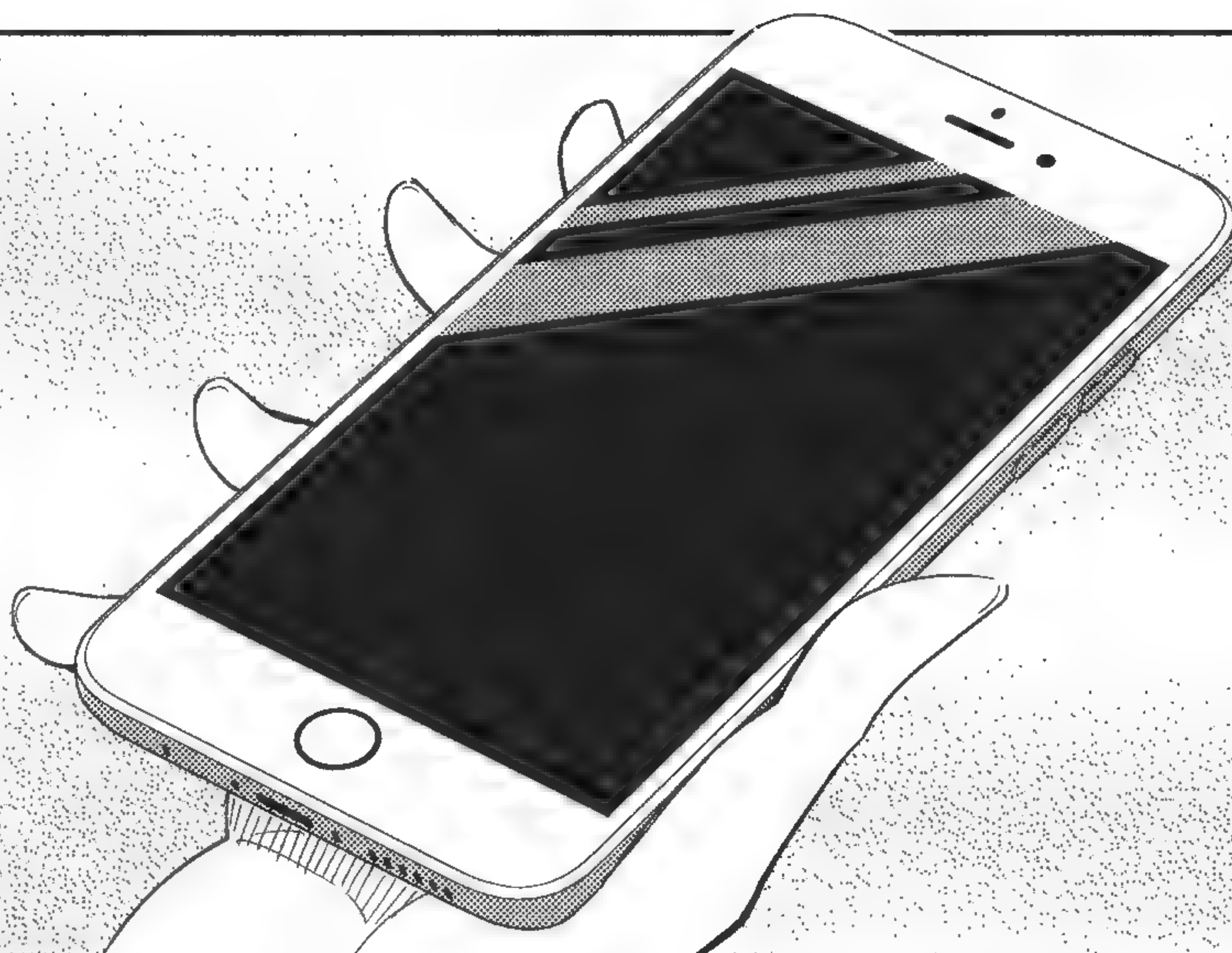


I
PICKED
IT UP
YESTERDAY
AND FORGOT
TO GIVE IT
BACK.



MAYBE
I CAN GIVE
YOU ONE
MORE THING
WHILE I'M
HERE?

OH,
THAT
REMINDS
ME.



KAORU-SAN'S
PHONE...?



I WAS THE
ONE WHO
CALLED THE
AMBULANCE.

OH,
MY GOSH,
YOU
WERE?!



OH.
REIICHI
DIDN'T
MENTION?

I WAS THERE
WHEN KAORU
GOT HURT
YESTERDAY.

If you don't
mind my
asking...

WHY DO
YOU...?



LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S
ABOUT TO
SWEAR A LIFE
DEBT TO ME
OR SOME-
THING...

ANYONE
WOULD
HAVE DONE
THE SAME.



I'M SO
GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR SWIFT
ACTION! THANKS
TO YOU, MY
SISTER DIDN'T
SUFFER ANY
MAJOR
INJURIES!

I CAN'T
THANK YOU
ENOUGH!

BOW

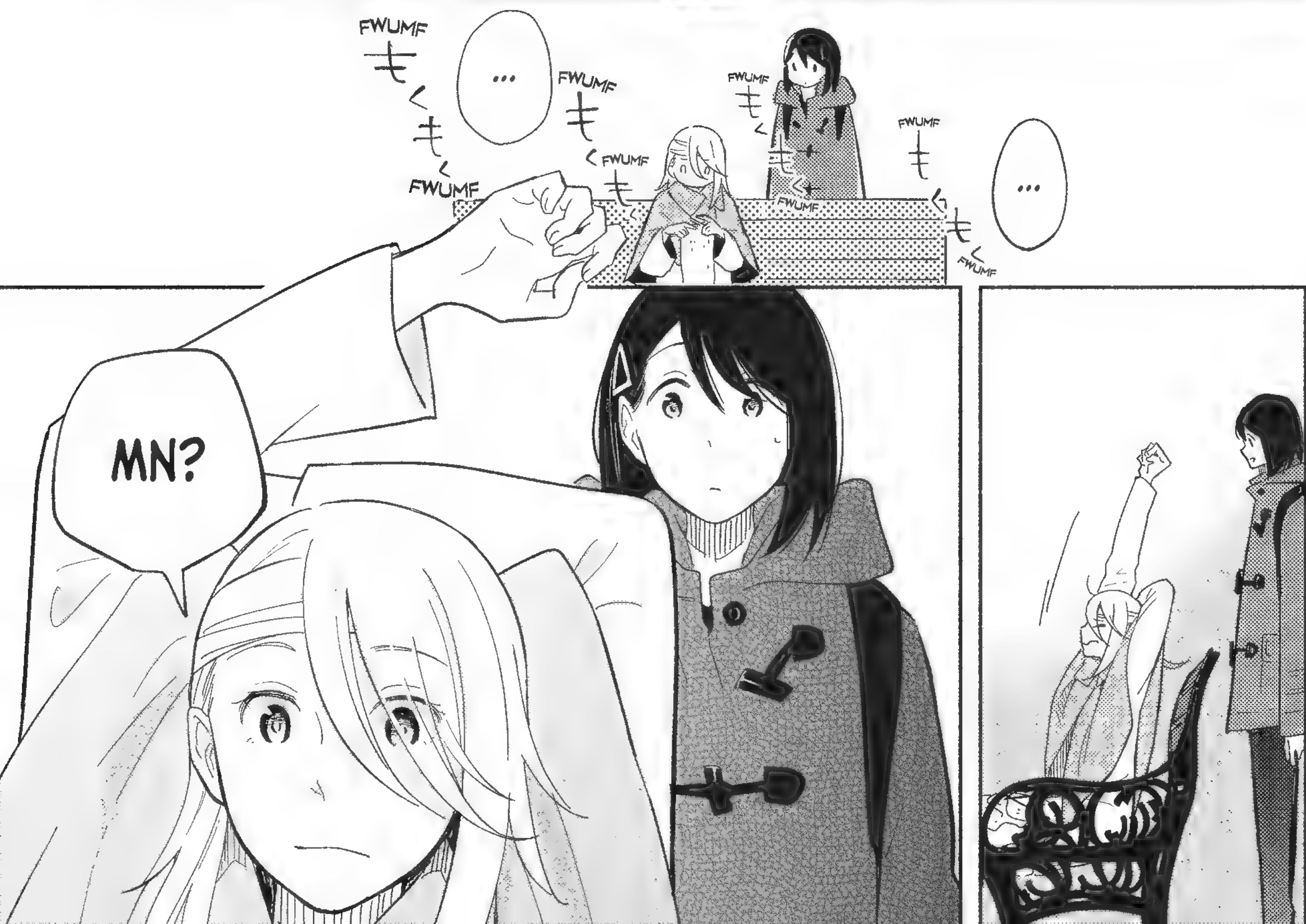
BOW

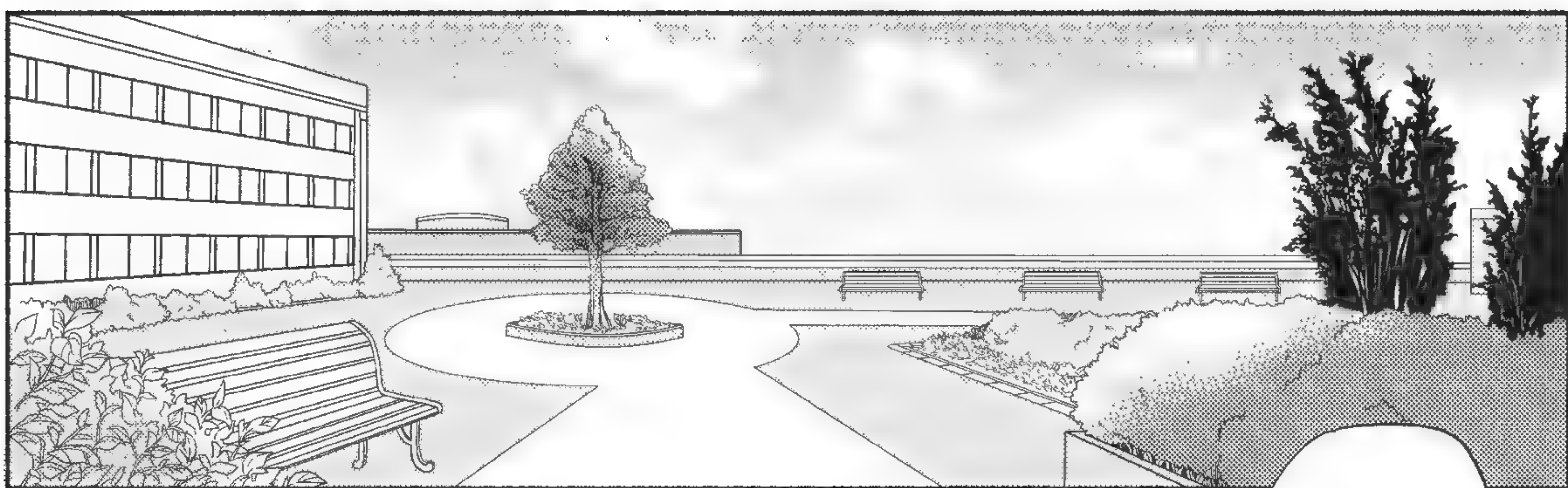
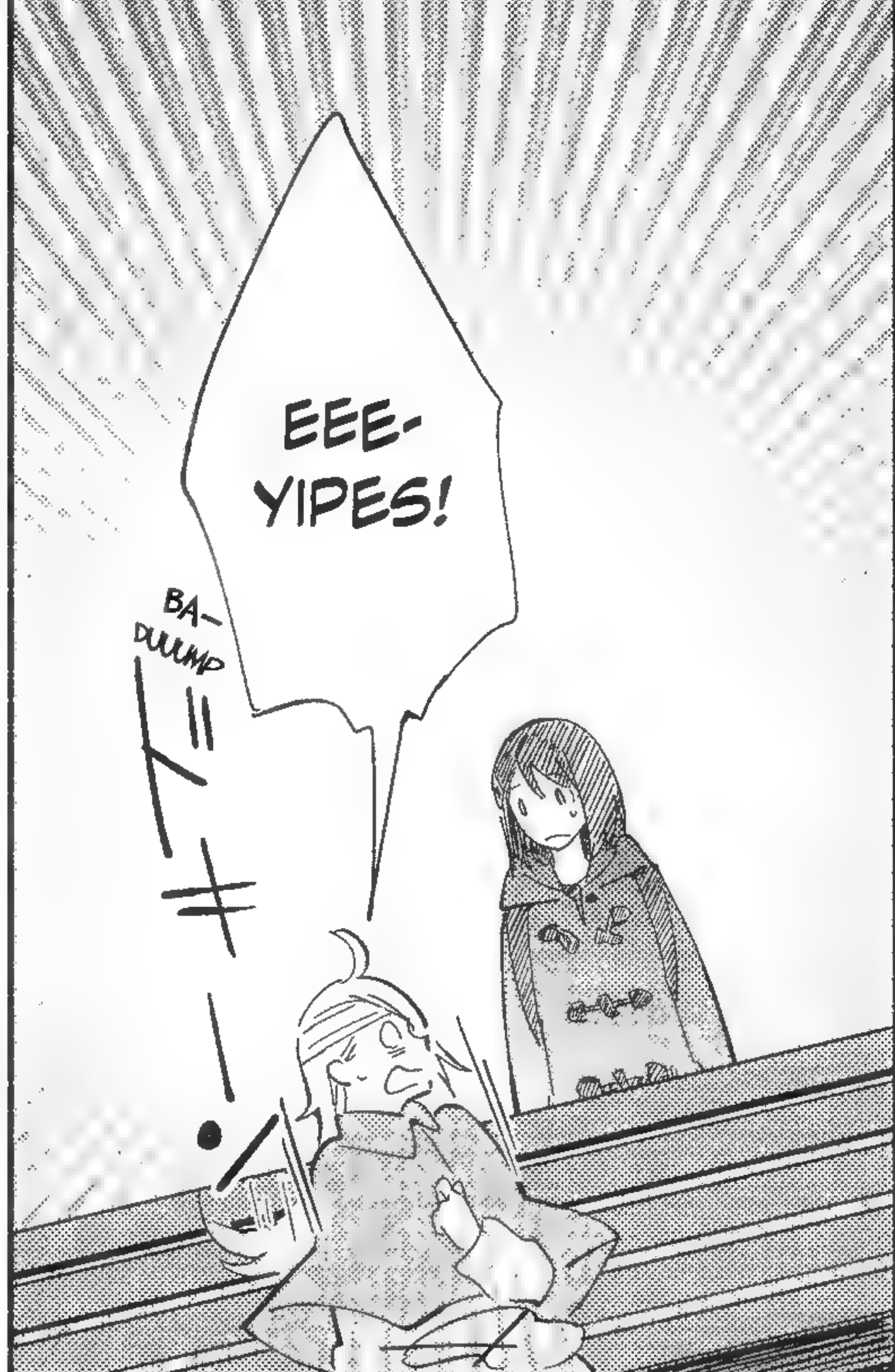


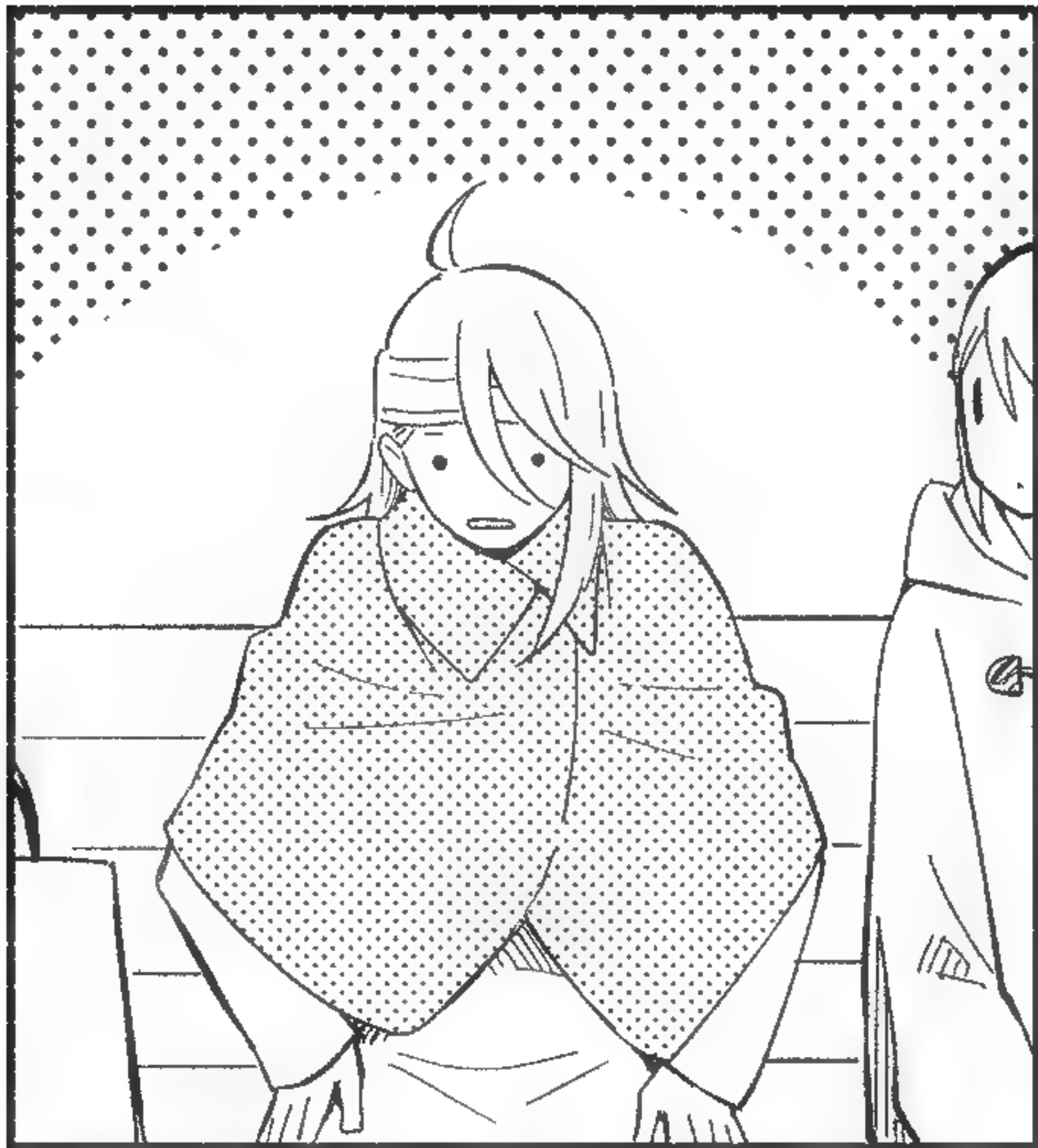


THOUGH...
IT WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
THAT WEIRD IF
I WERE HER
ONEE-CHAN
BY NOW...









I'LL
HAVE TO
THANK
HER...

SHE'S
ALWAYS
BUSY. IT
WAS SO
NICE OF
HER TO
MAKE
TIME TO
VISIT.



OH!

THAT'S RIGHT.
RISAKO-SAN
GAVE ME YOUR
PHONE, TOO.

Sigh

UGH, LIFE
WITHOUT
A CELL
PHONE IS
ROUGH
NOWA-
DAYS...



THAT
WOULD BE
RISAKO,
THEN.

GUESS
I
FORGOT
HER
NAME...
SHE HAD
GLASSES
AND WAS
REALLY
PRETTY,
AND HAD
A NICE
FIGURE.



SO I
WAS WITH
RISAKO...



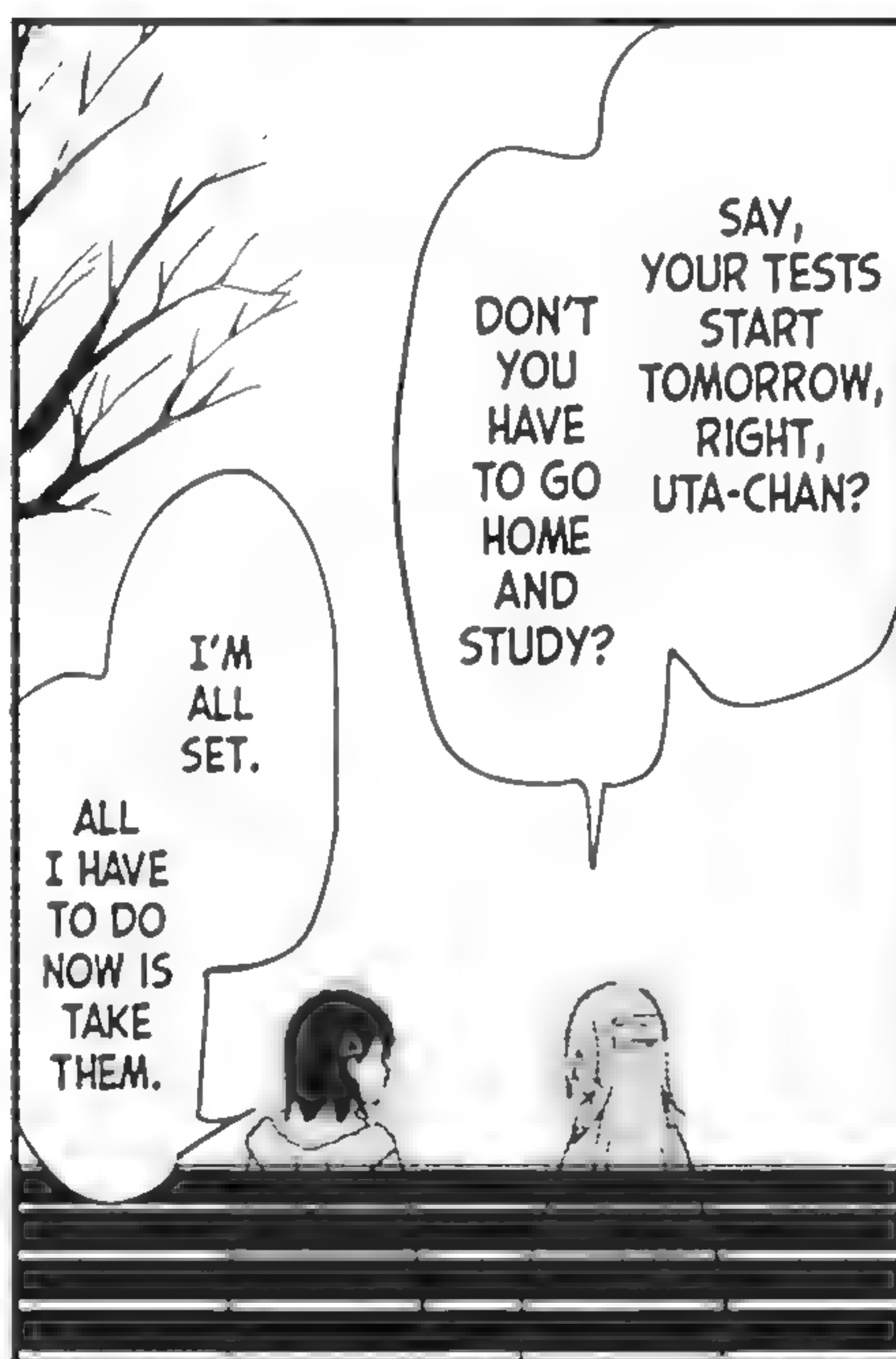
WHAT?
WHY DID
SHE...?

SAID
SHE PICKED
IT UP
AFTER THE
ACCIDENT.



YOU'RE
SO
STUDIOUS.

THAT'S
GREAT.



ALL
I HAVE
TO DO
NOW IS
TAKE
THEM.

I'M
ALL
SET.

DON'T
YOU
HAVE
TO GO
HOME
AND
STUDY?

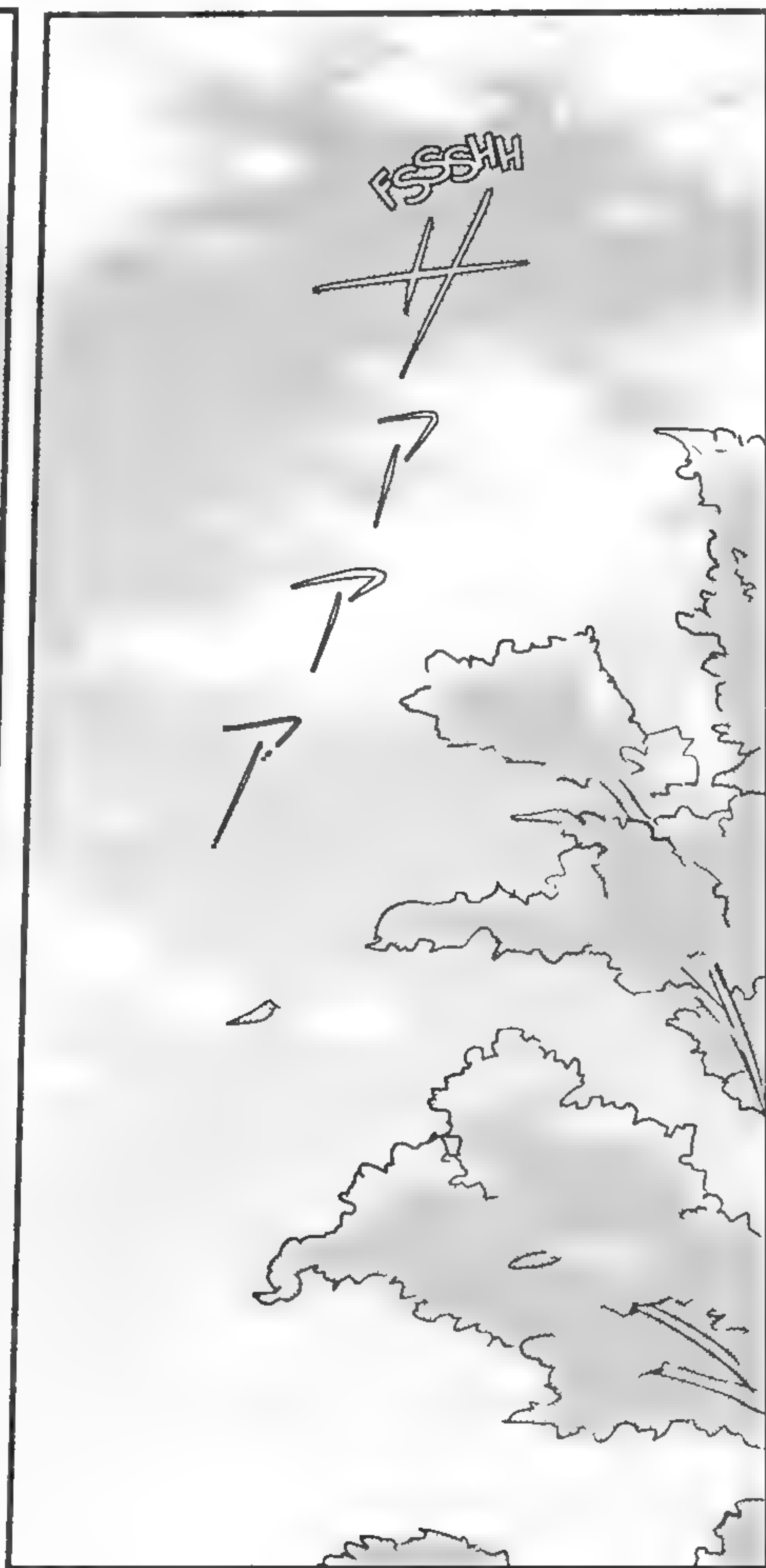
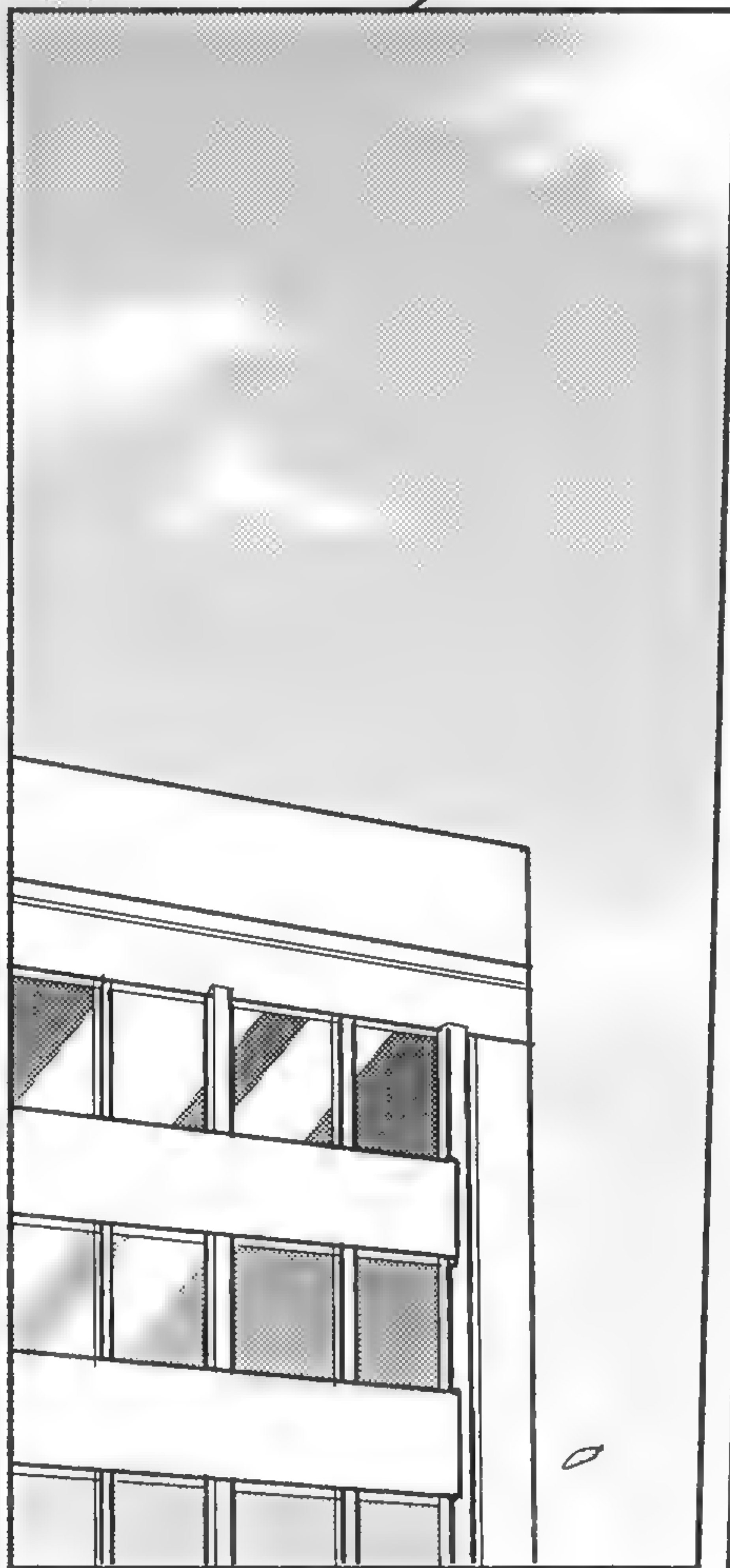
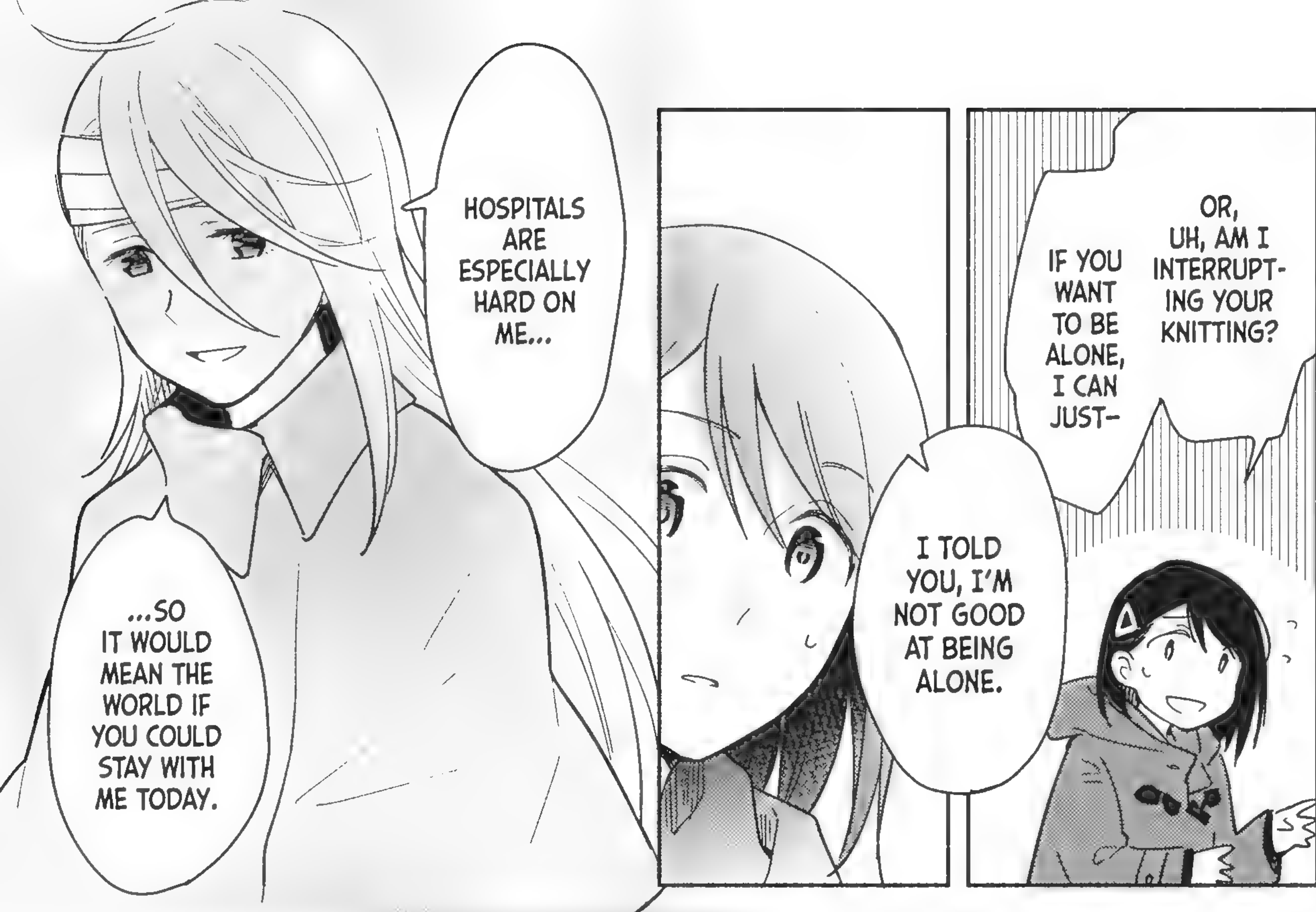
SAY,
YOUR TESTS
START
TOMORROW,
RIGHT,
UTA-CHAN?



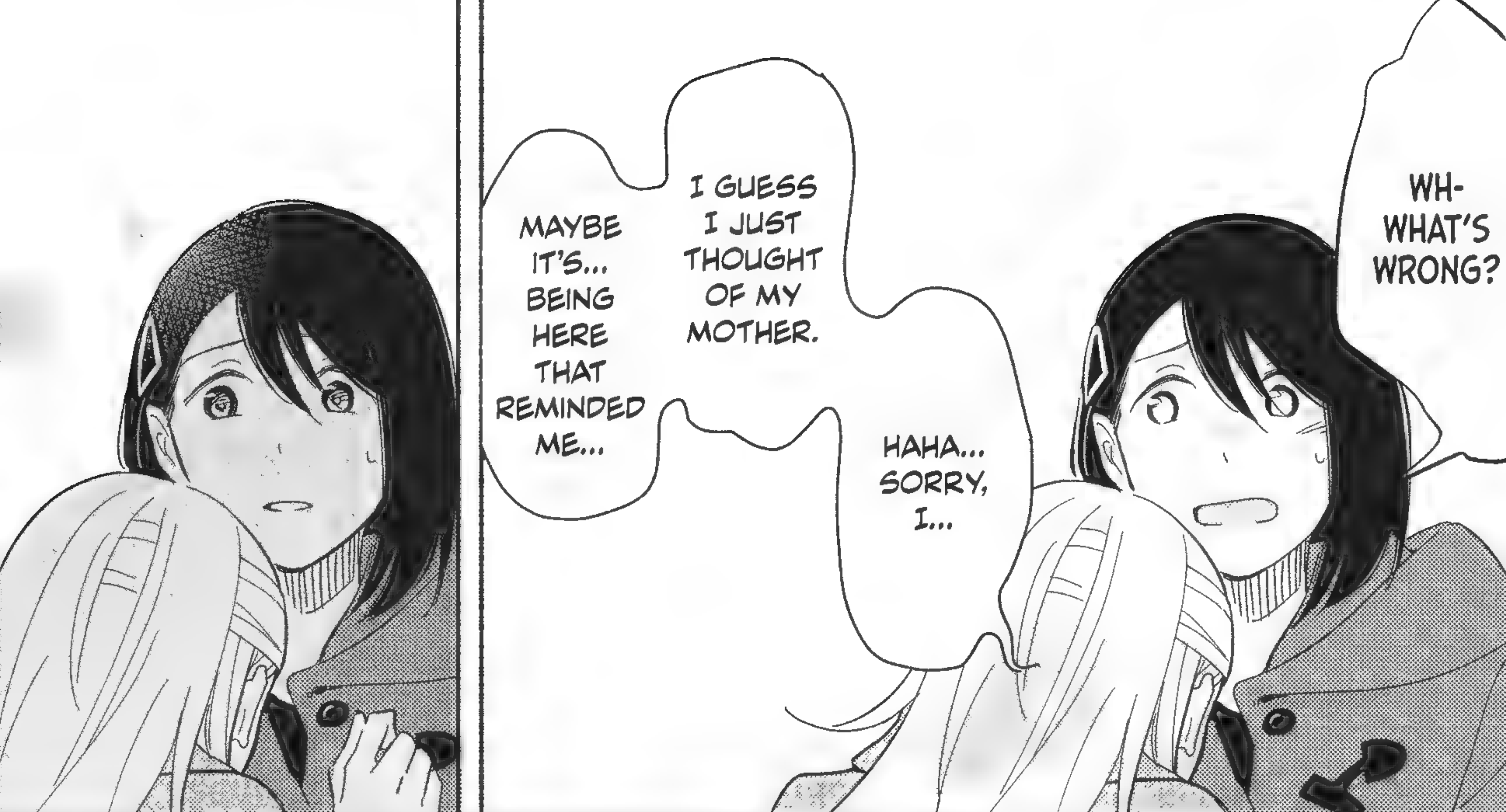
FORGET
IT.

ER,
NOTHING.

WHAT'S
UP?







MAYBE
IT'S...
BEING
HERE
THAT
REMINDED
ME...

I GUESS
I JUST
THOUGHT
OF MY
MOTHER.

HAHA...
SORRY,
I...

WH-
WHAT'S
WRONG?

...BUT
I DIDN'T KNOW
HER WELL ENOUGH
TO UNDERSTAND
WHY SHE WAS
CRYING.

LET ME
STAY LIKE
THIS A
WHILE.

I KNEW HER
TOO WELL TO
TAKE THOSE
WORDS AT
FACE VALUE...



SEEING HER
WOUNDED HURTS
A LOT WORSE THAN
BEING WOUNDED
MYSELF...

IT'S
WAY, WAY
WORSE...

...AND
FRUSTRATING.



...JUST
HUNG
THERE...

...AND THAT
WAS ALL IT
COULD DO.

THE ARM
I REACHED
OUT TO
HOLD HER...



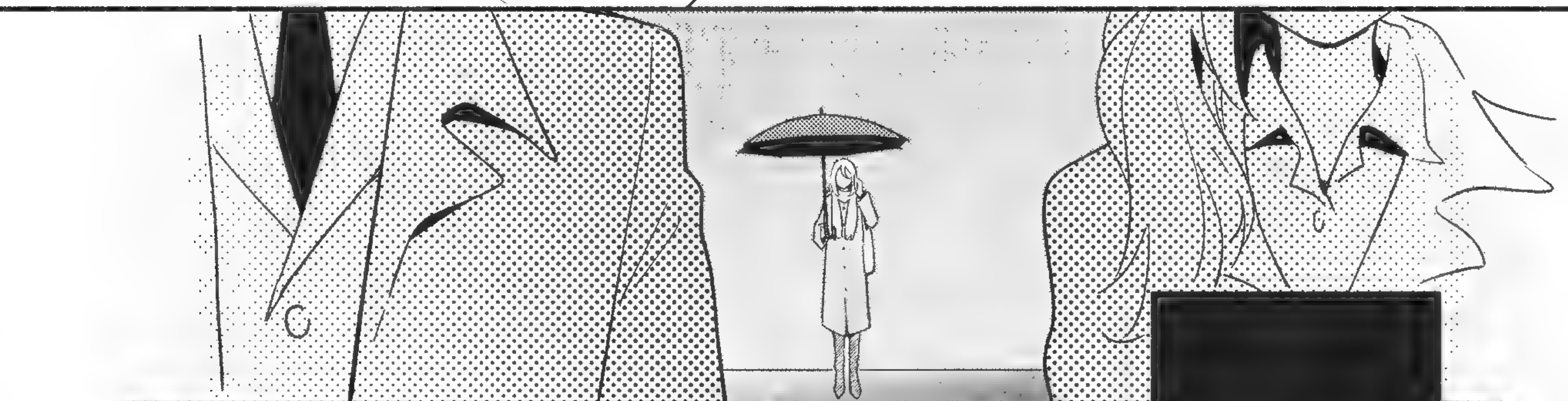
*If I Could
Reach You*

*If I Could
Reach You*



THAT'S
WHY WE GO
AROUND
HIDING IT
ALL THE
TIME.

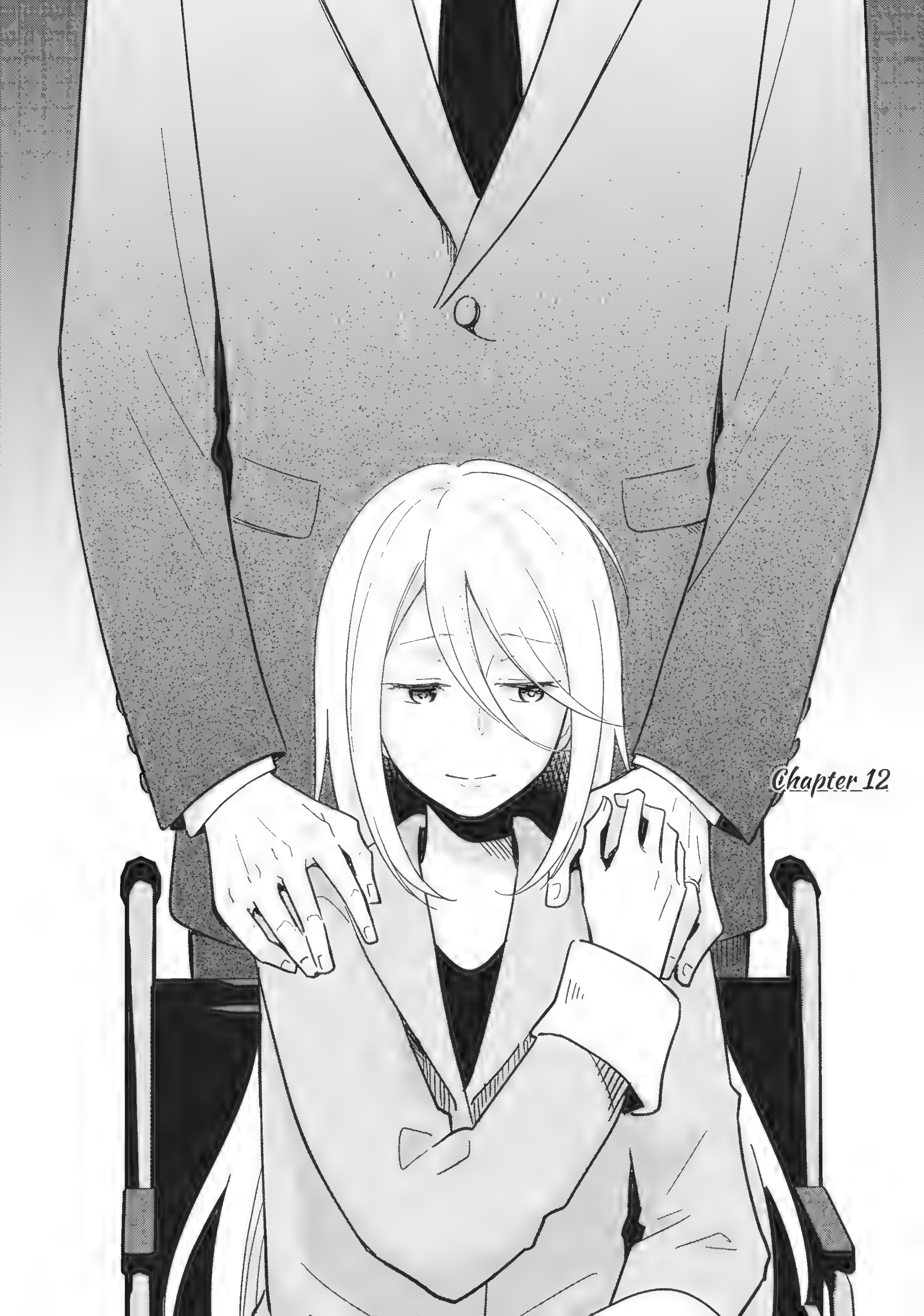
SO OFTEN,
IT'S BETTER
NOT TO
KNOW THE
TRUTH.



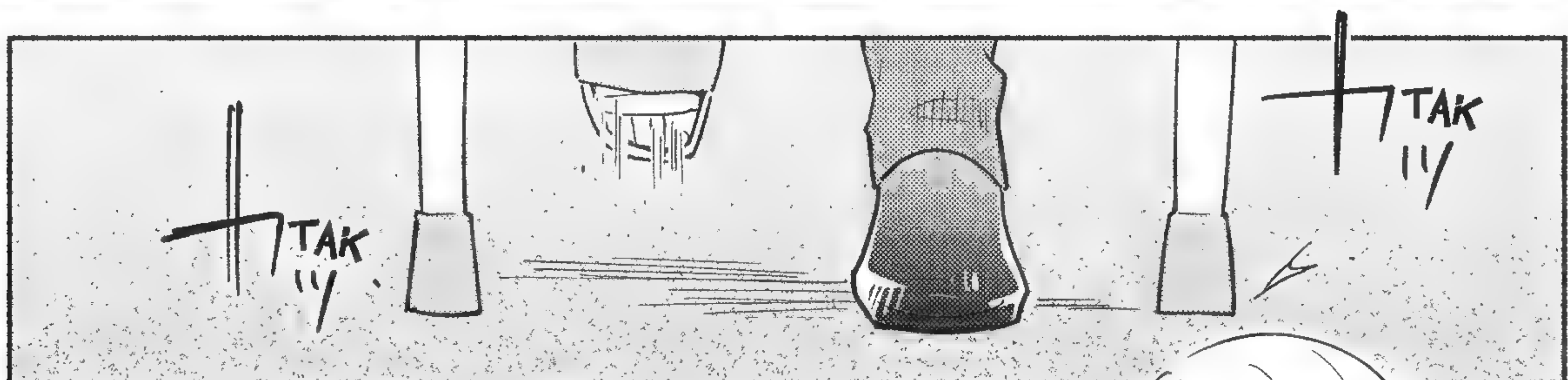
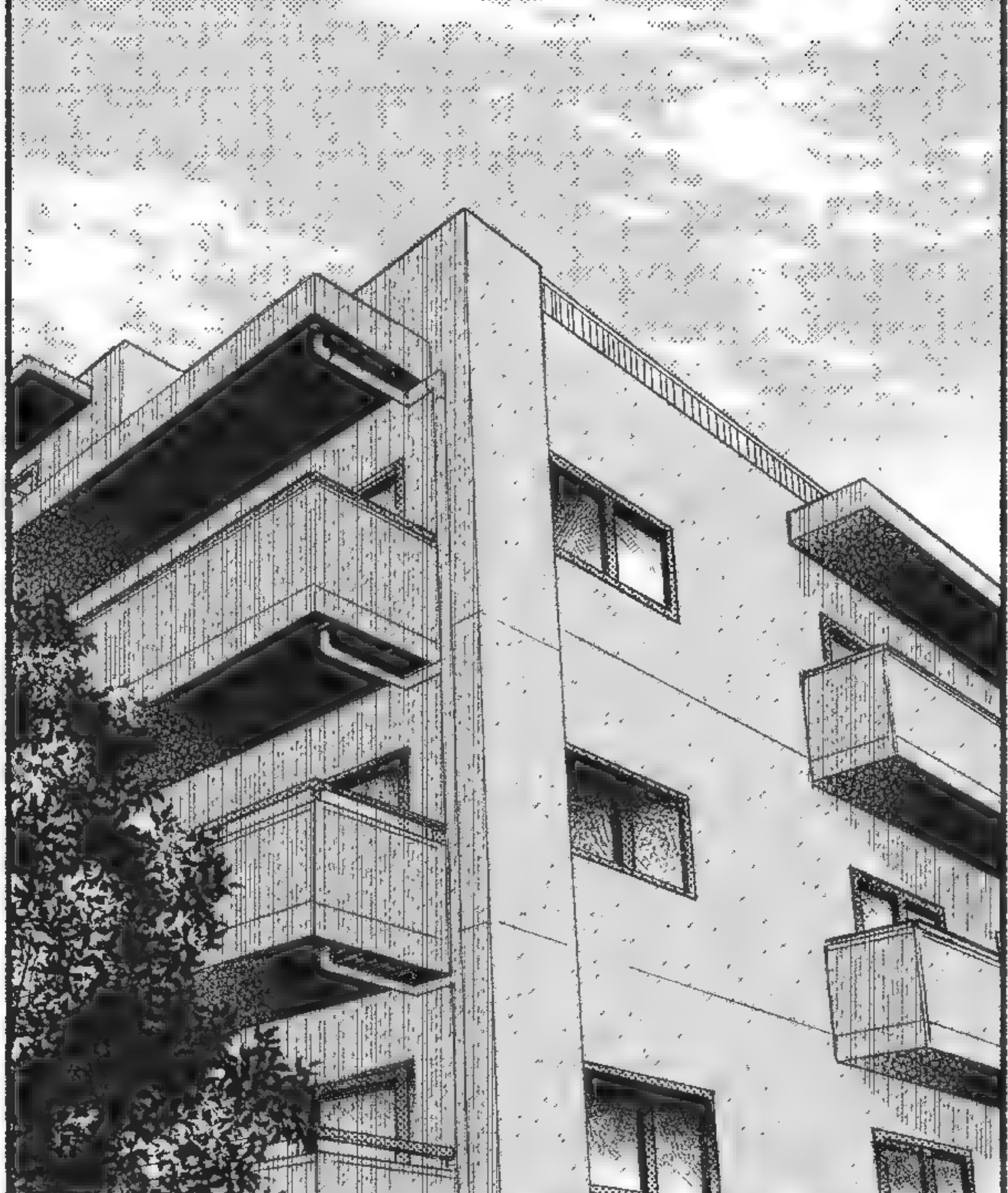
WHY WERE
THE TWO
OF THEM
TOGETHER?

IF ONLY
I'D NEVER
REMEMBERED
THAT PART...



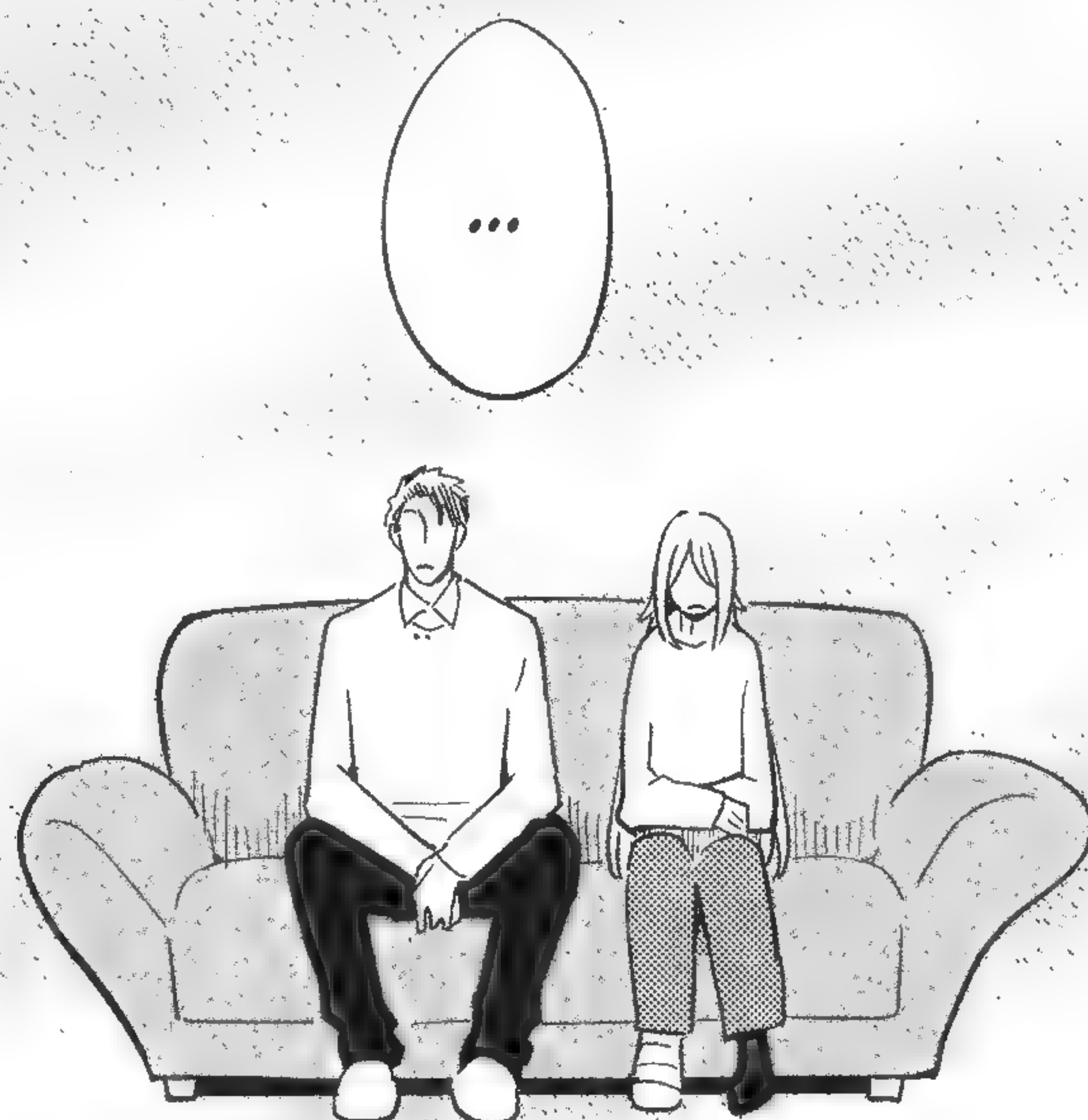
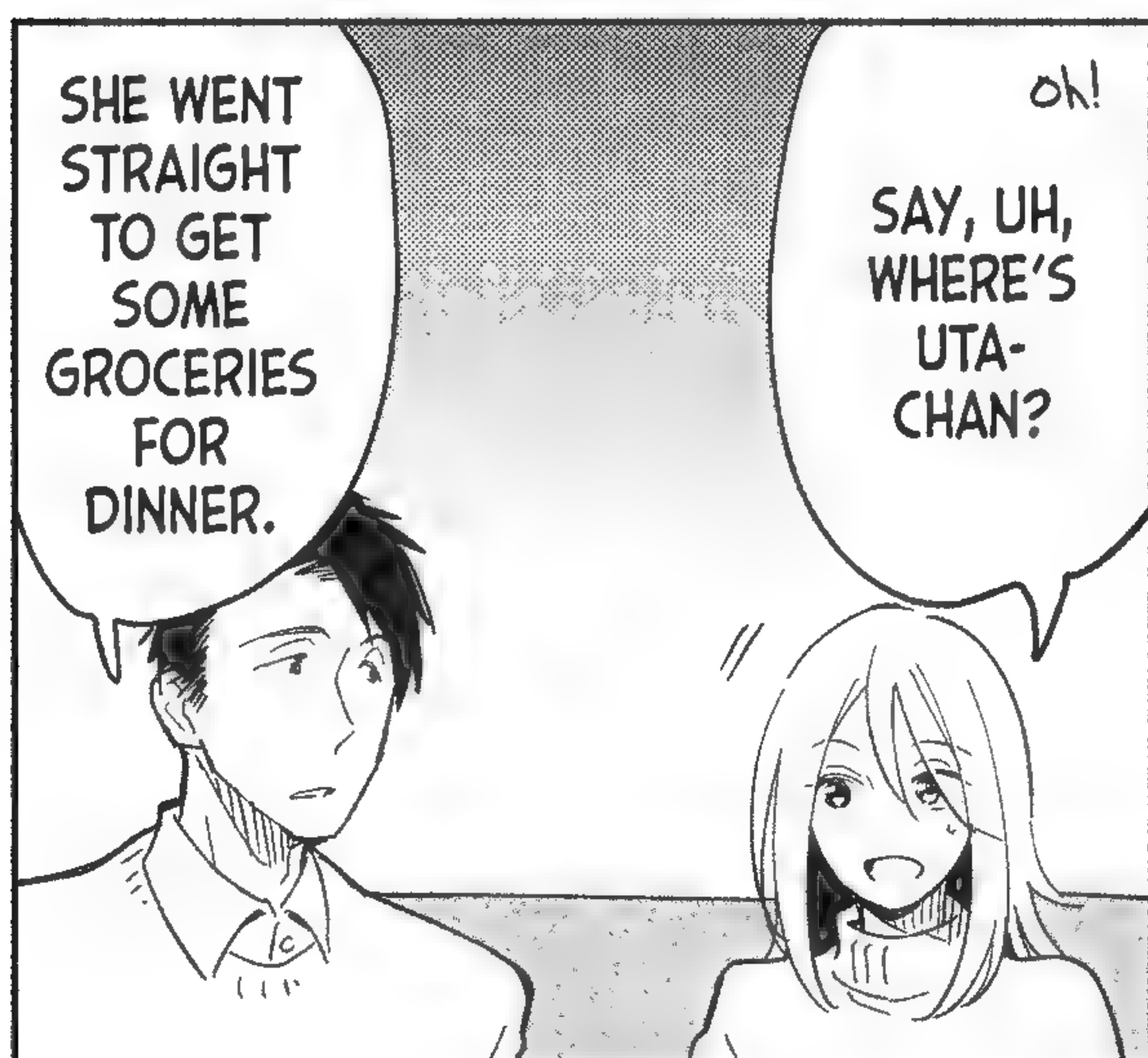


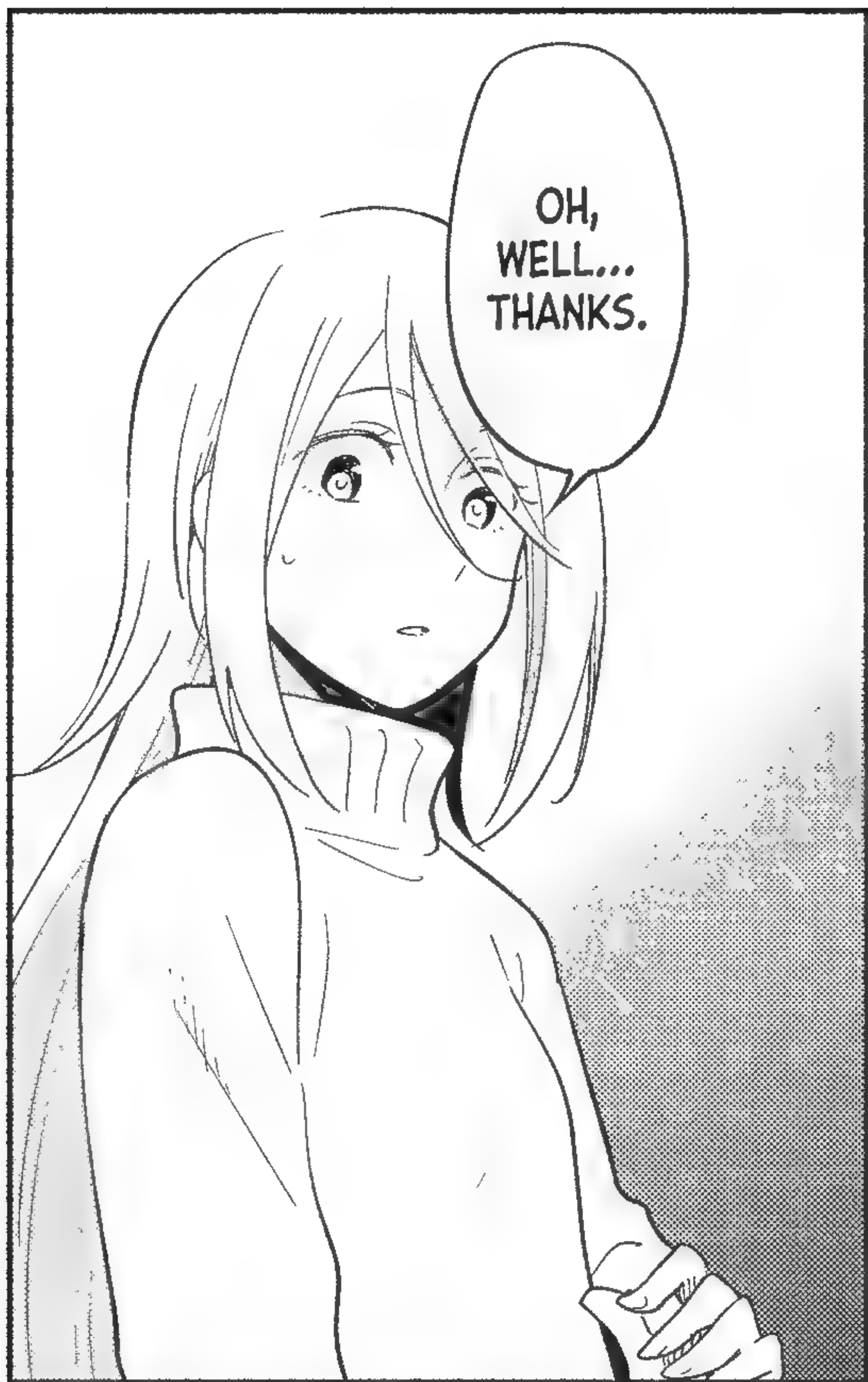
Chapter 12



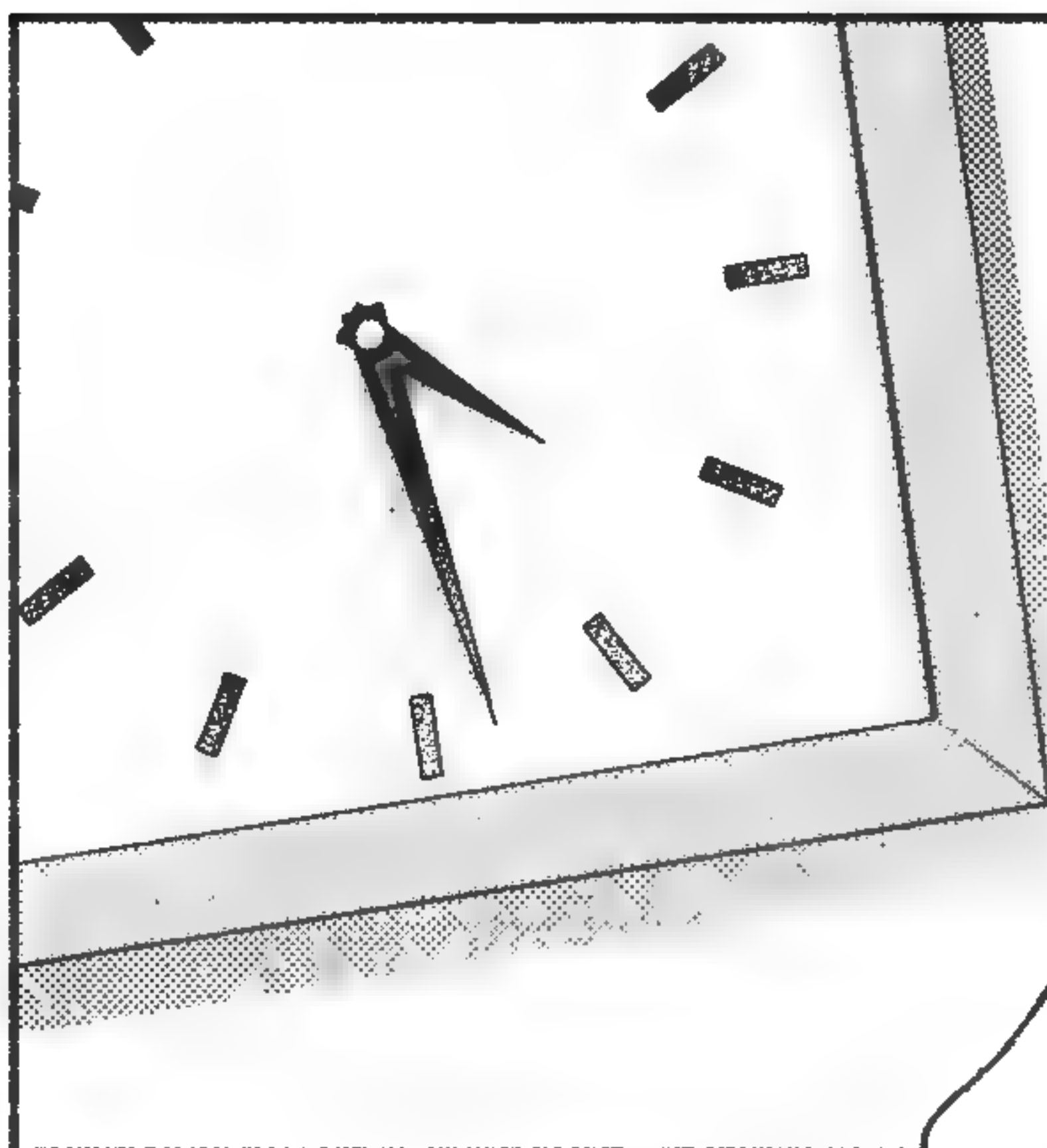
By crawling...?







OH,
WELL...
THANKS.



GOSH, IT'S
ALREADY
THAT LATE?

I
BETTER
BRING
IN THE
LAUN-
DRY...



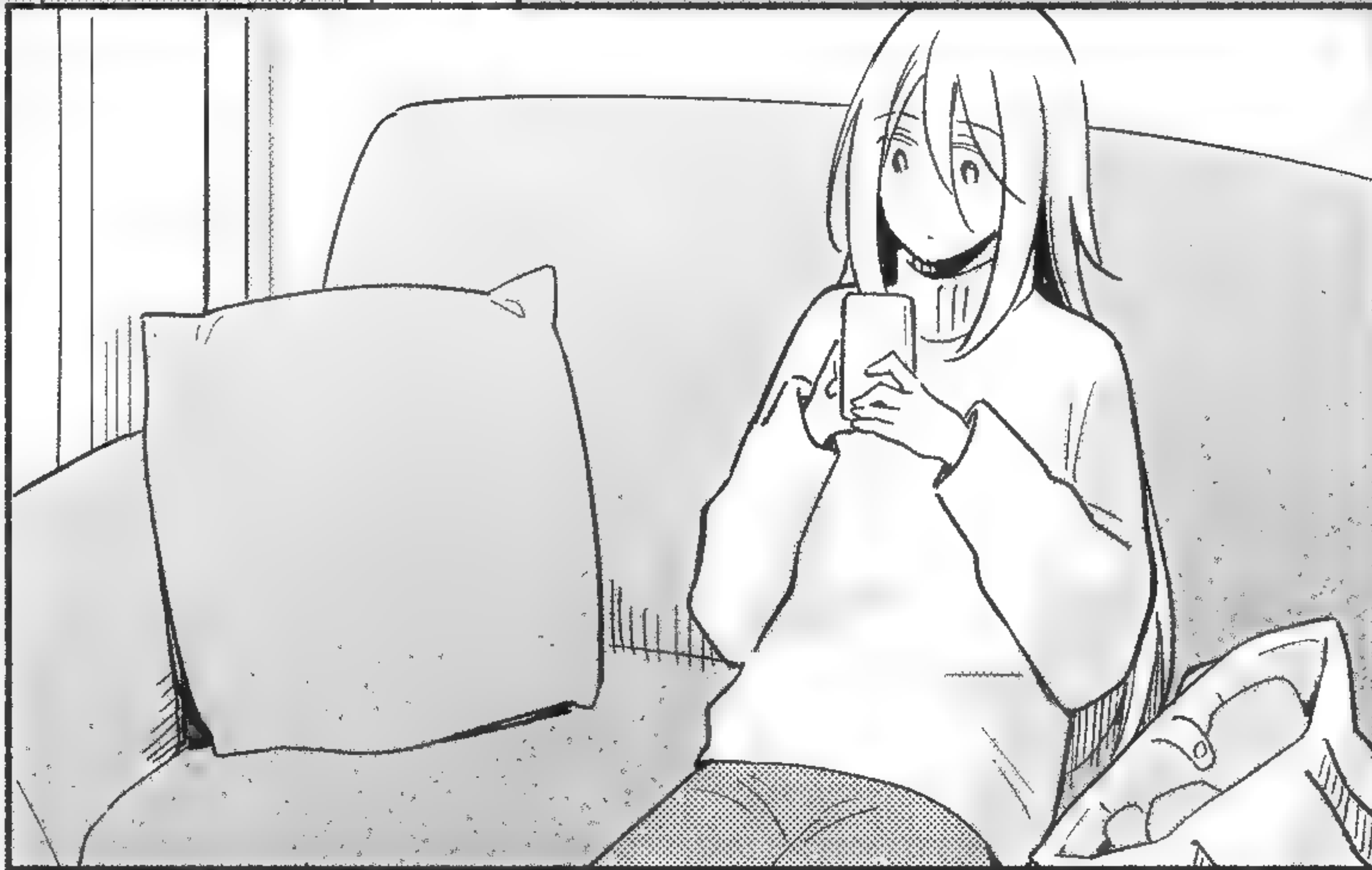
UTA
AND
I WILL
SPLIT THE
HOUSE-
WORK.
YOU
JUST
REST
UP,
KAORU.

NO,
YOU'D
BETTER
SIT BACK
DOWN.



RATTLE

カ
ラ
リ
ン

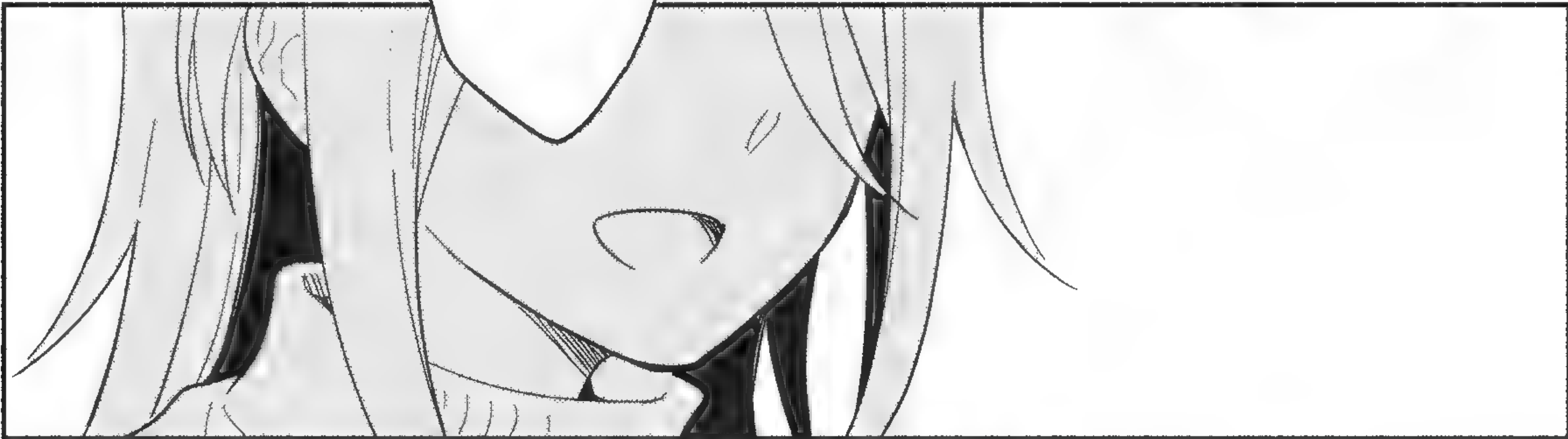




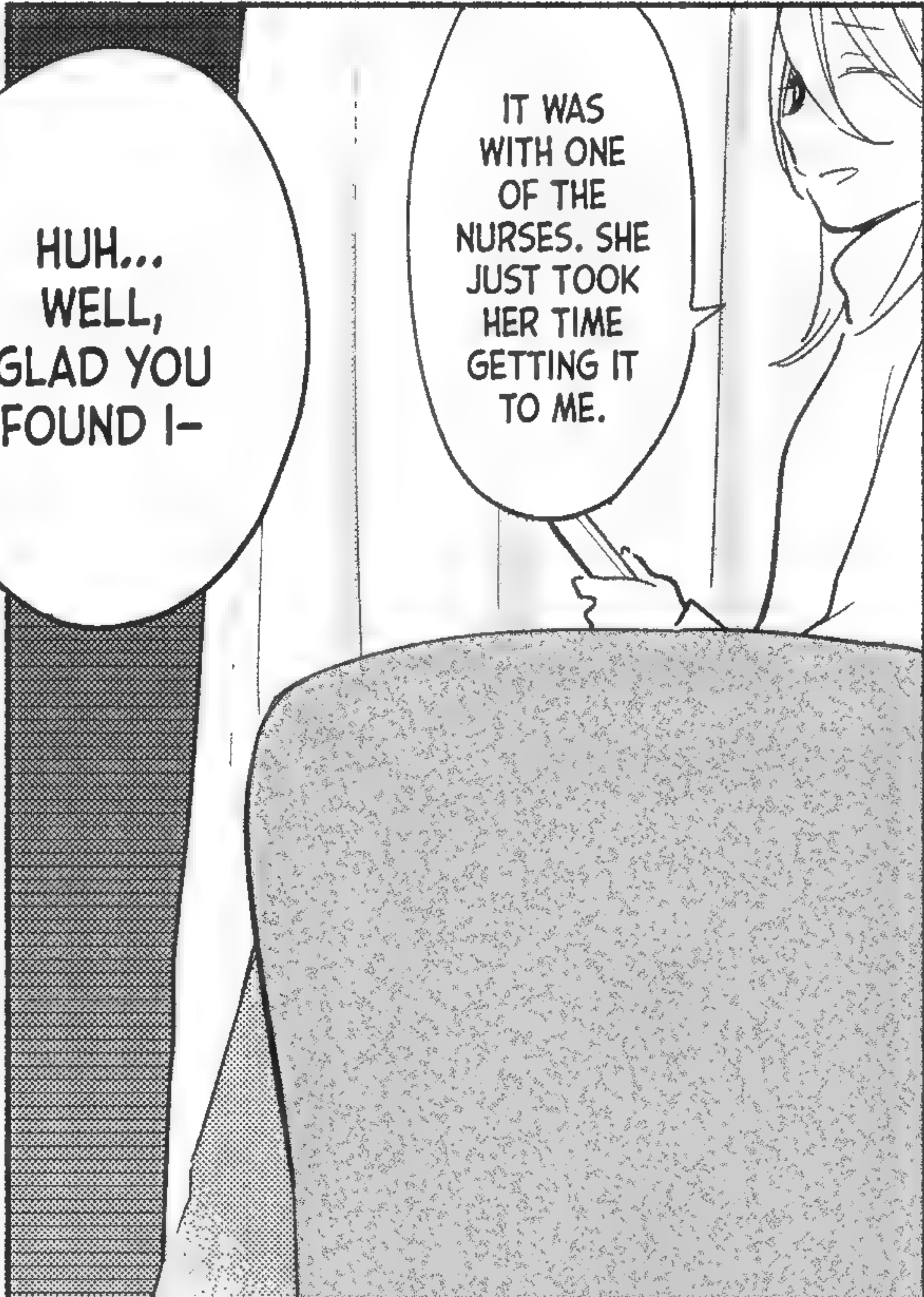
YOU EVER
FIND YOUR
PHONE?

OH...

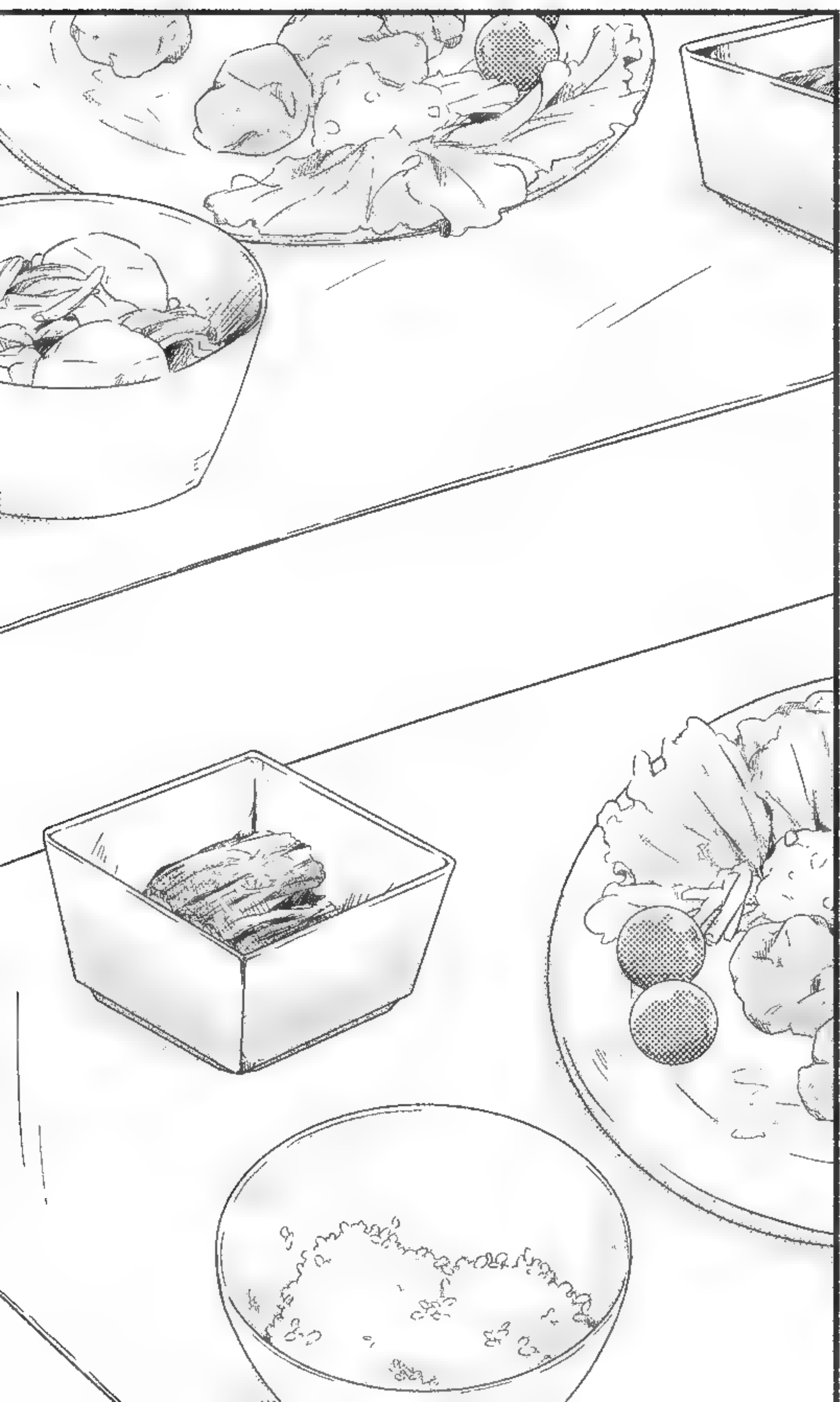
DIDN'T I
MENTION?
IT WAS—

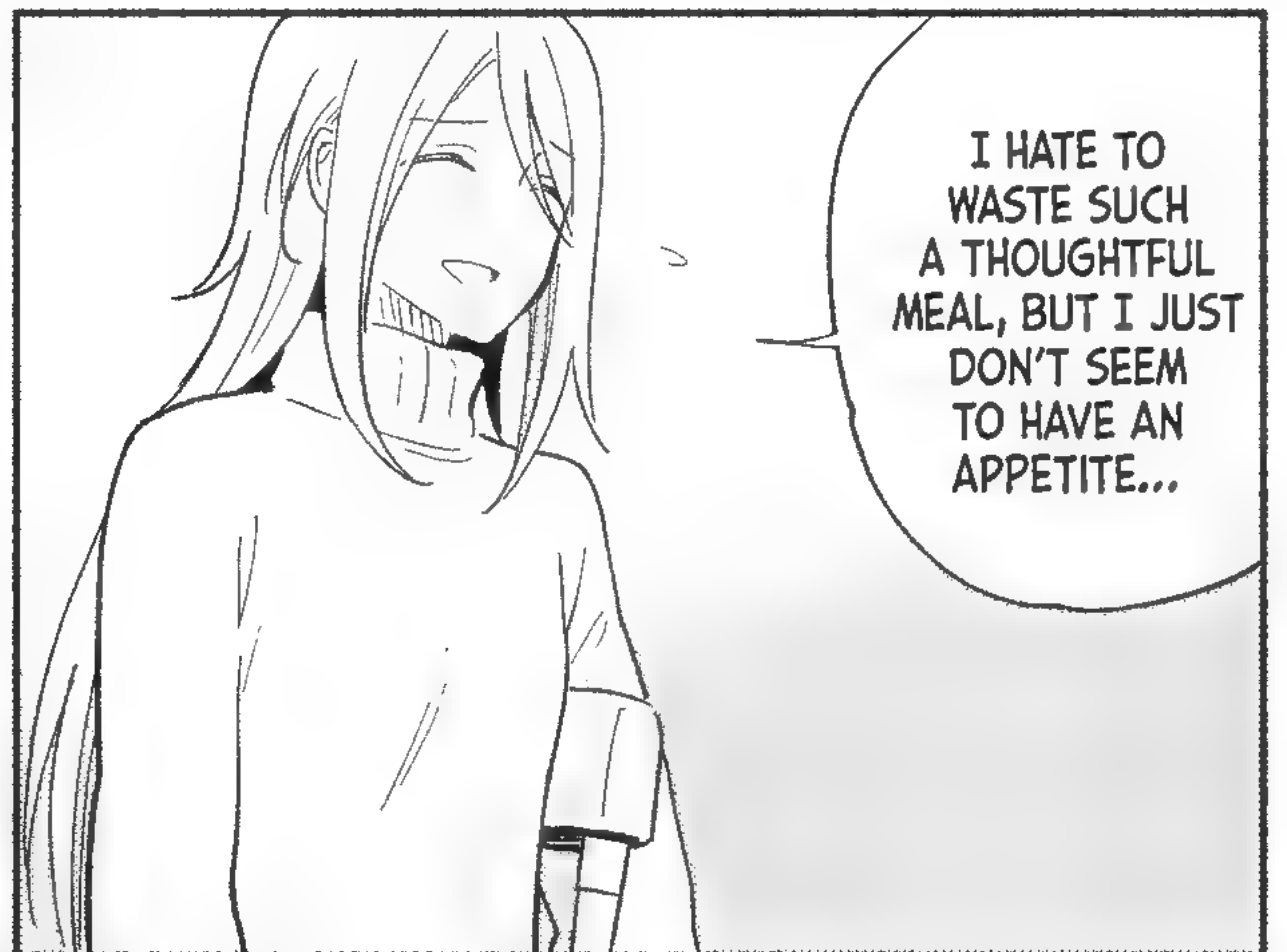


HUH...
WELL,
GLAD YOU
FOUND I—



IT WAS
WITH ONE
OF THE
NURSES. SHE
JUST TOOK
HER TIME
GETTING IT
TO ME.





YOU
AND
KAORU-
SAN...

HEY,
REI-
KUN.



I'M
CONVINCED
IT HAS
SOMETHING
TO DO
WITH WHY
SHE WAS
CRYING.

NOPE,
WE DON'T
REALLY
HAVE ANY
PLANS
YET...



ARE
YOU GOING
ANYWHERE...

...FOR
CHRISTMAS?



HOW
ABOUT
WE HAVE A
CHRISTMAS
PARTY AT
OUR PLACE,
THEN?

...A TINY
BIT OF
HELP, BUT...



I CAN
ONLY
GIVE...



I WANT
KAORU-
SAN...

... TO ALWAYS
BE ABLE TO
SMILE, TO
BE HAPPY..



UH-
HUH.

KAORU-SAN
SUGGESTED
I ASK THE
MANAGER.

SO THAT'S
WHY YOU'VE
BEEN SO KEEN
ON THOSE
CHRISTMAS
RECIPES.



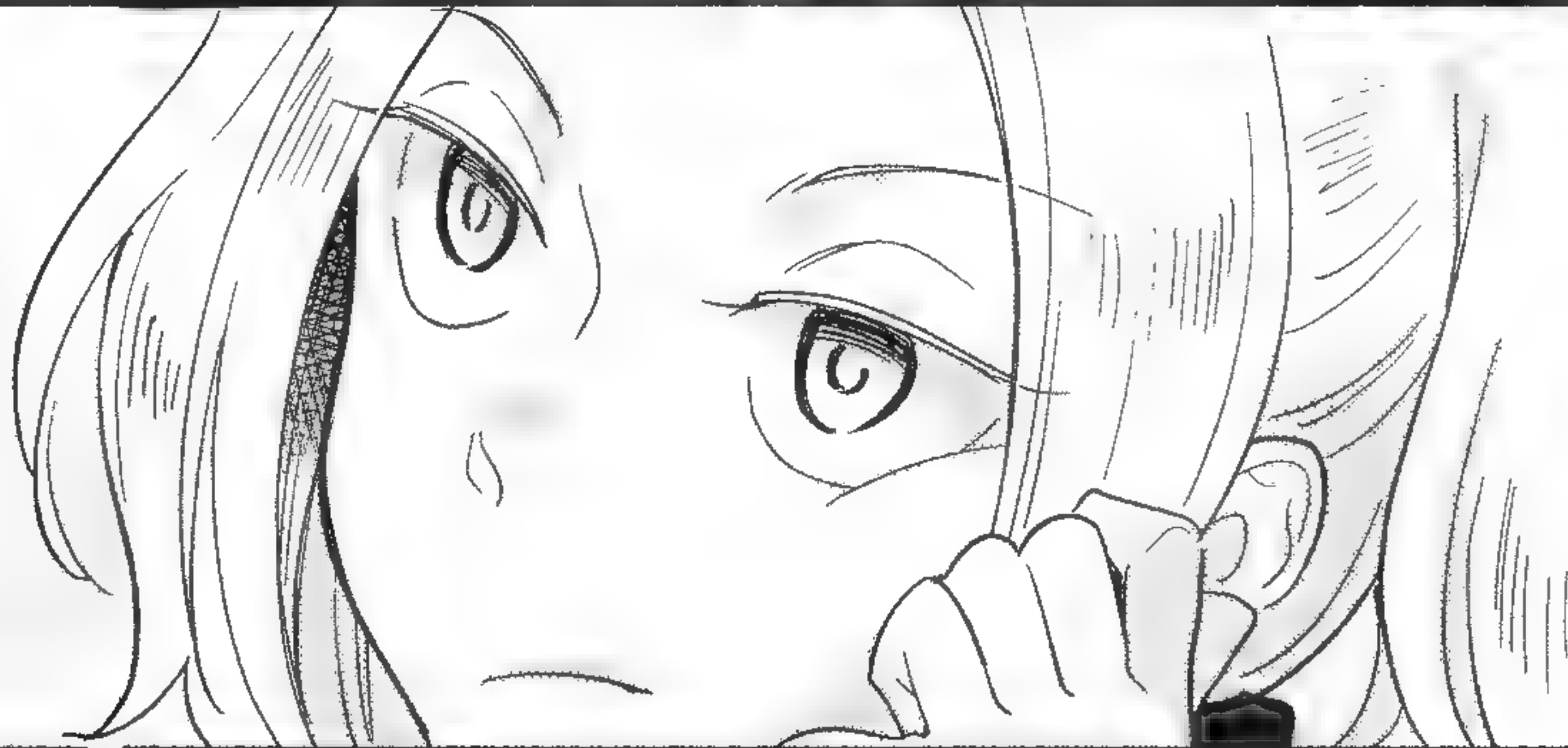
SHE HAD
SOME GREAT
TIPS...

...FOR
HOW TO
COOK STUFF
EASILY AT
HOME.



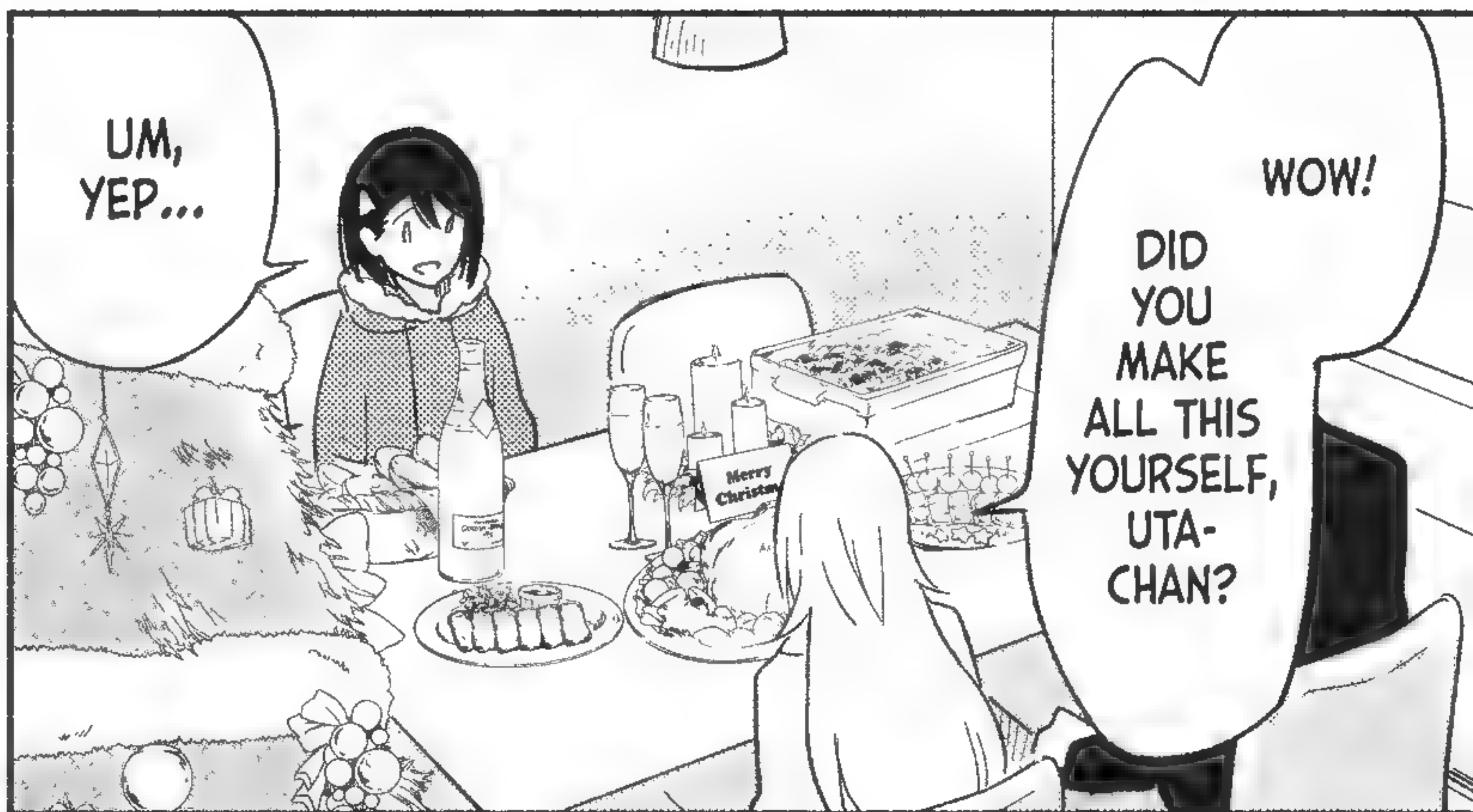
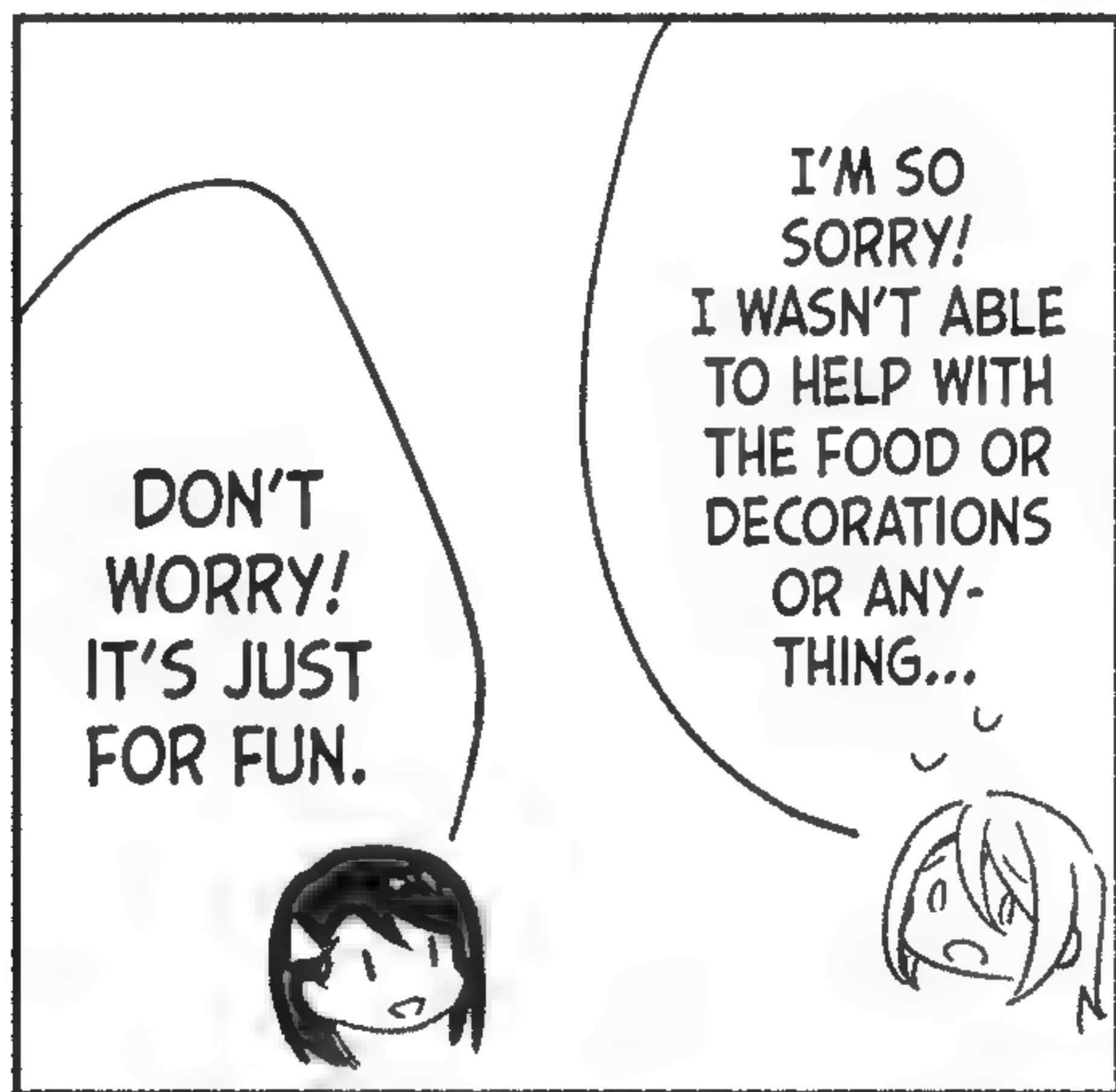
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
CHRISTMAS
PLANS, KURO-
CHAN?

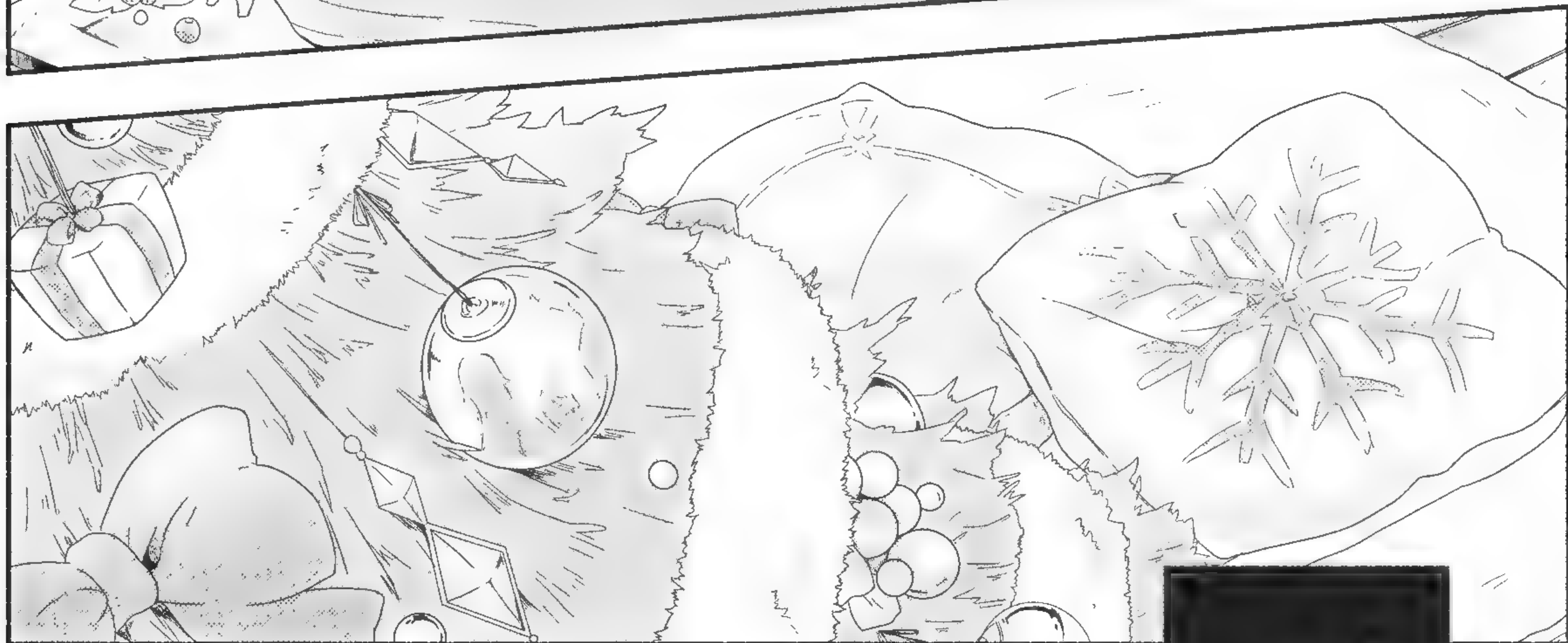
YOU'RE
SURE
FIRED UP.
EVEN
THOUGH
IT'S *JUST*
CHRISTMAS.





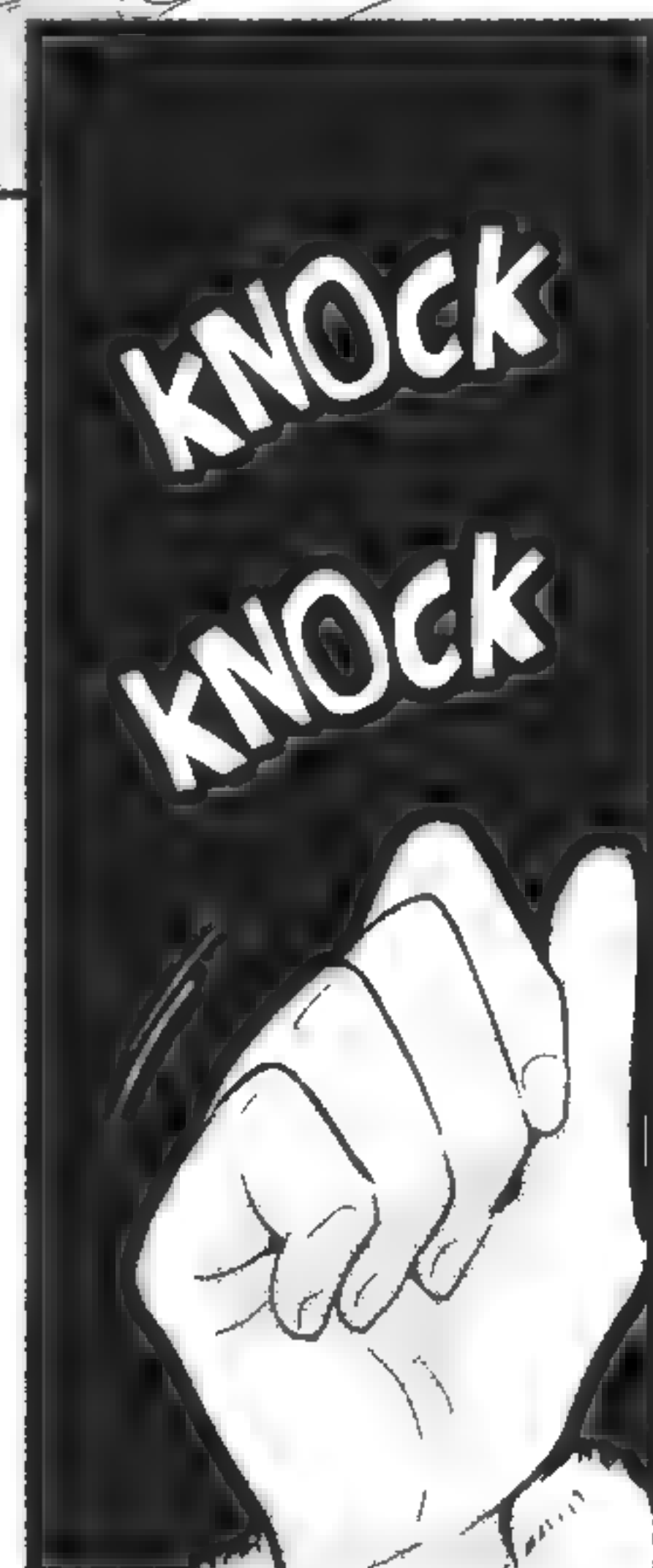






GA-
CHK

OH!



BA-
DUUMP!!

ZZSSH

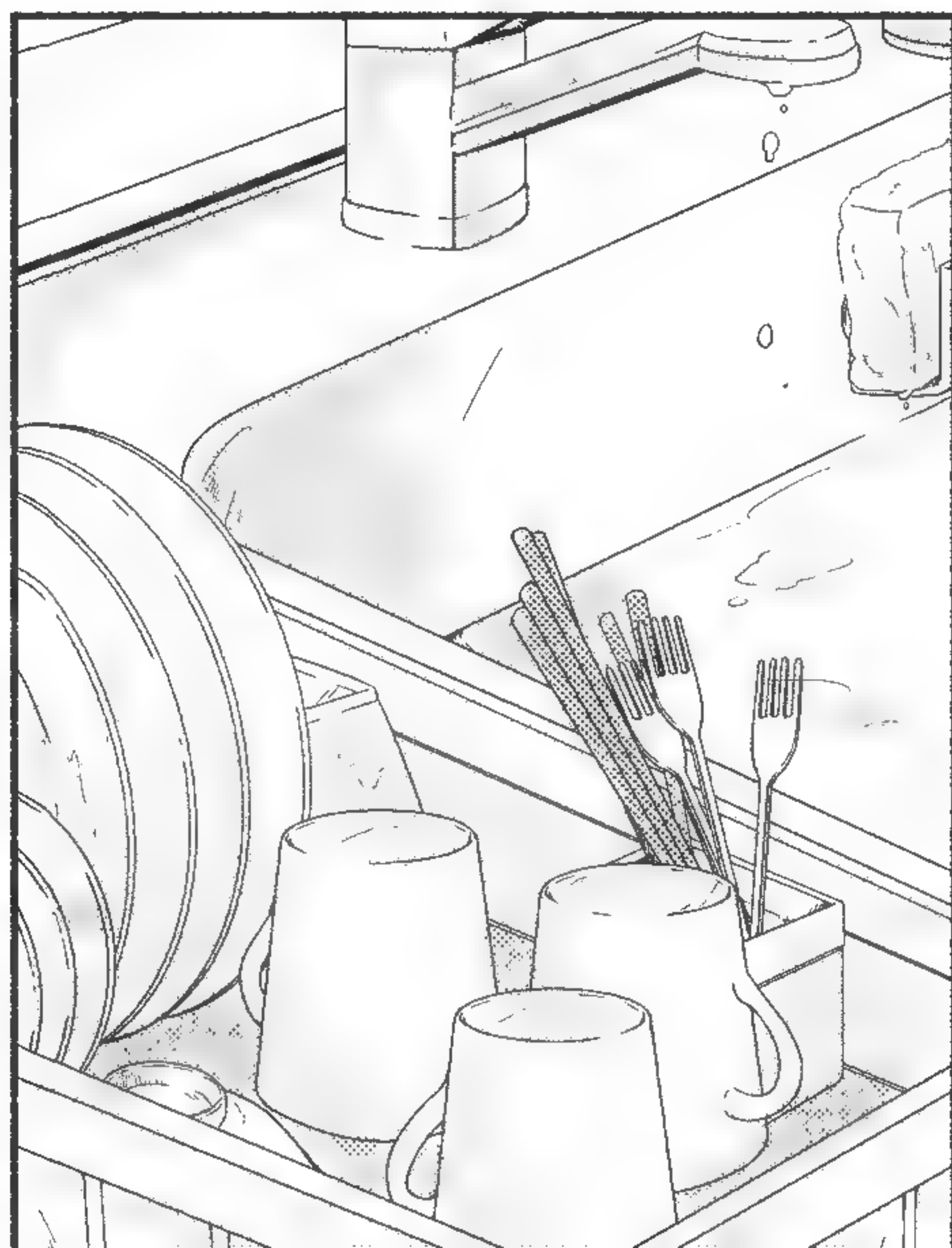
A cer-
tain...

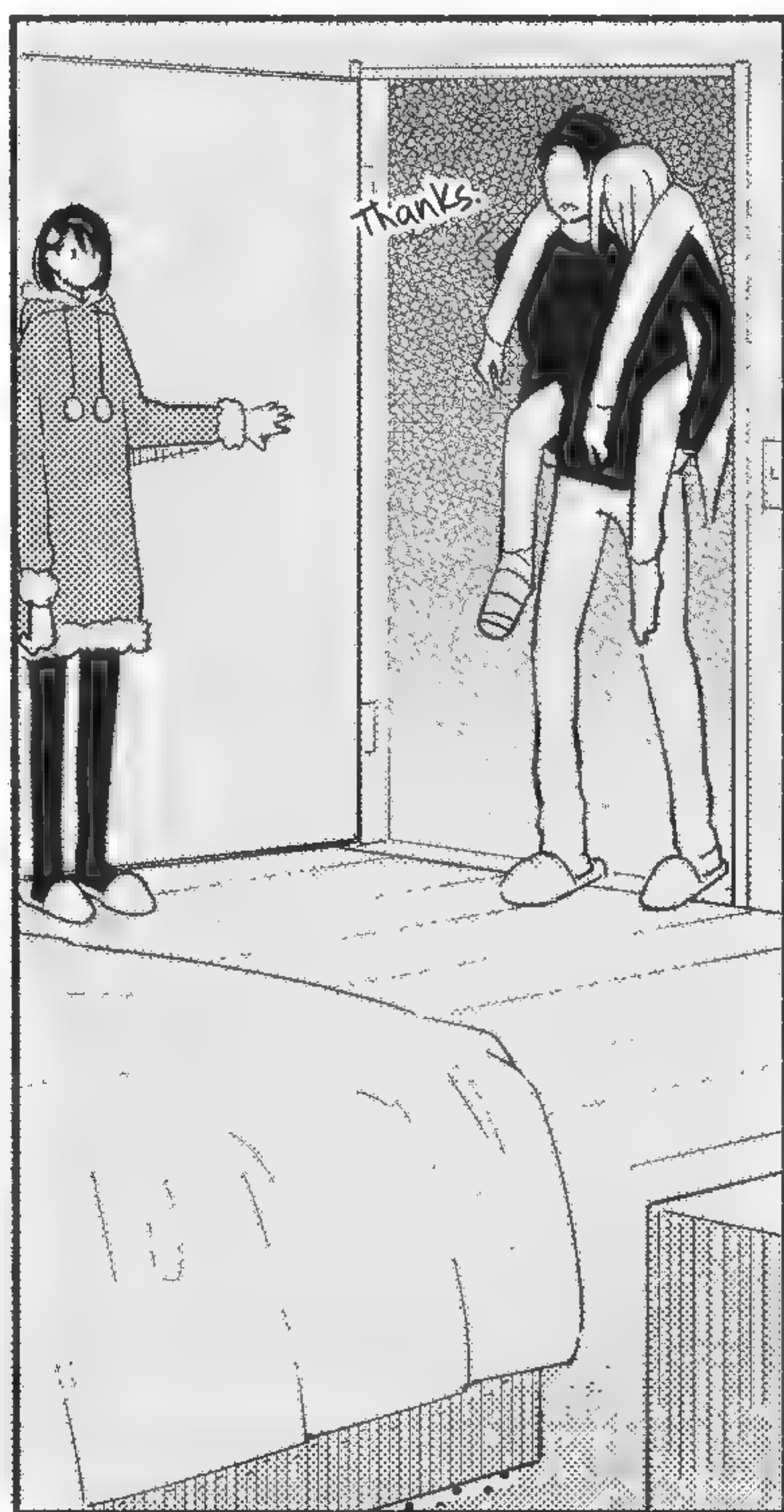
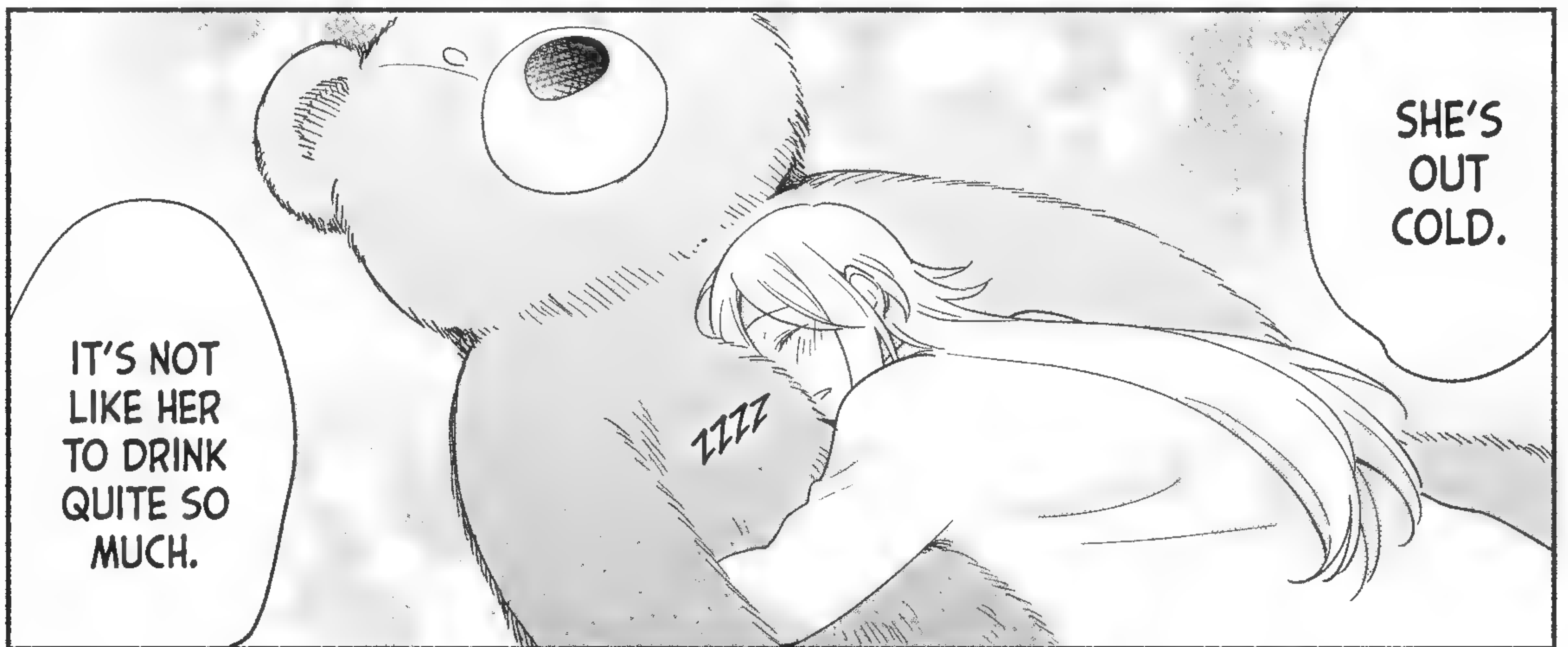
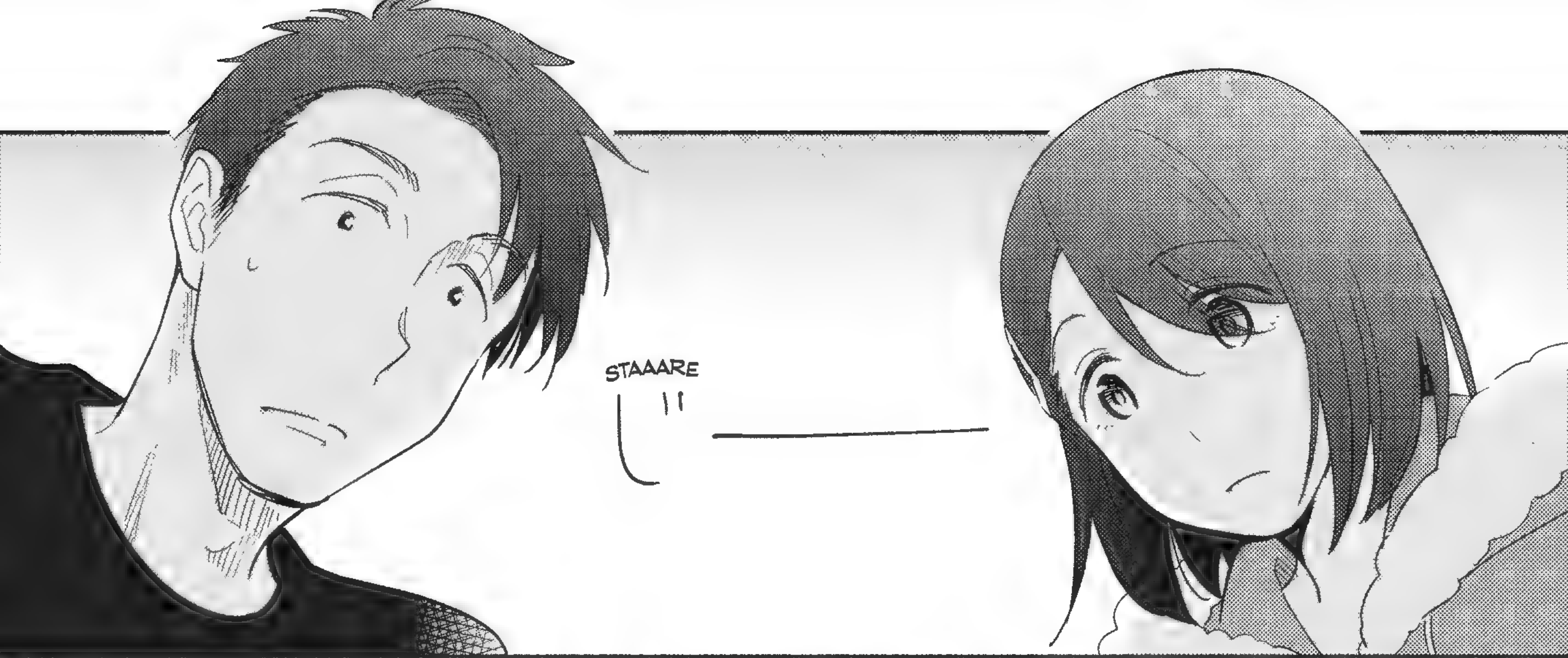
Big Bear

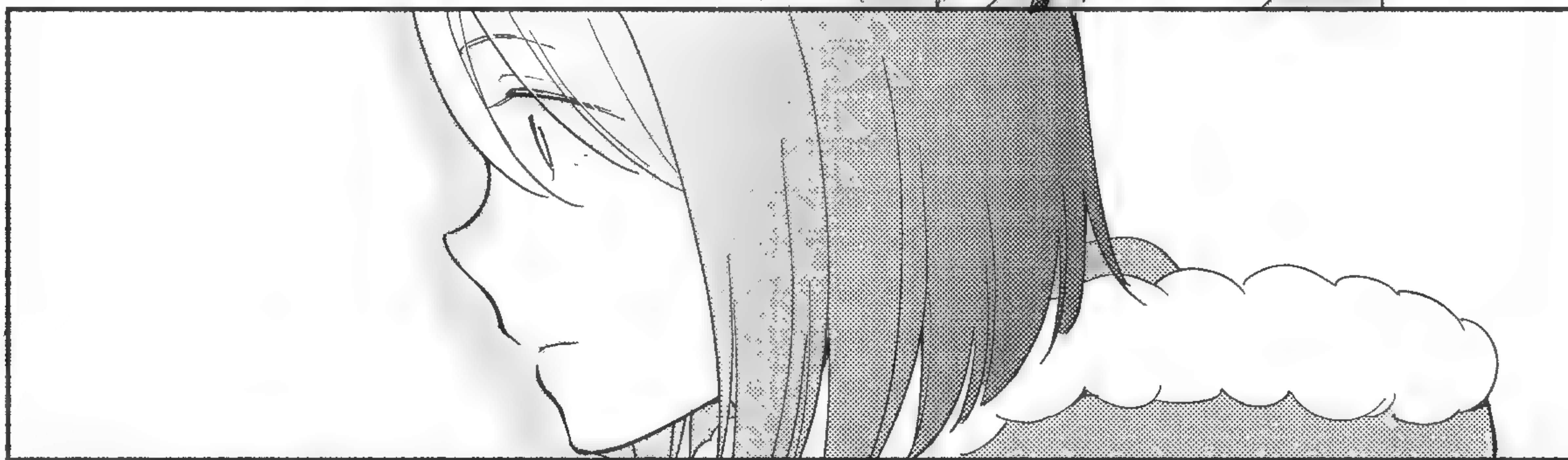
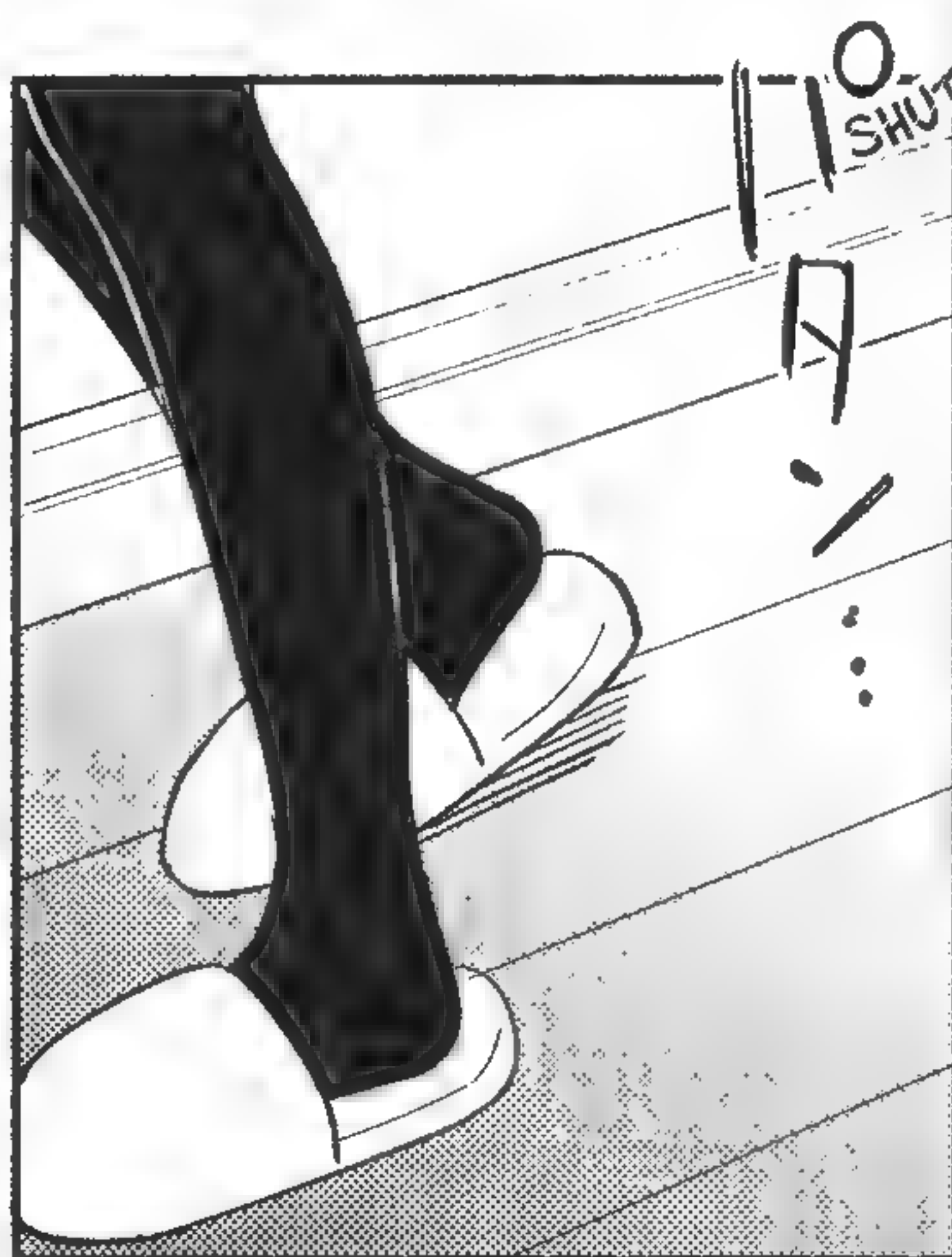


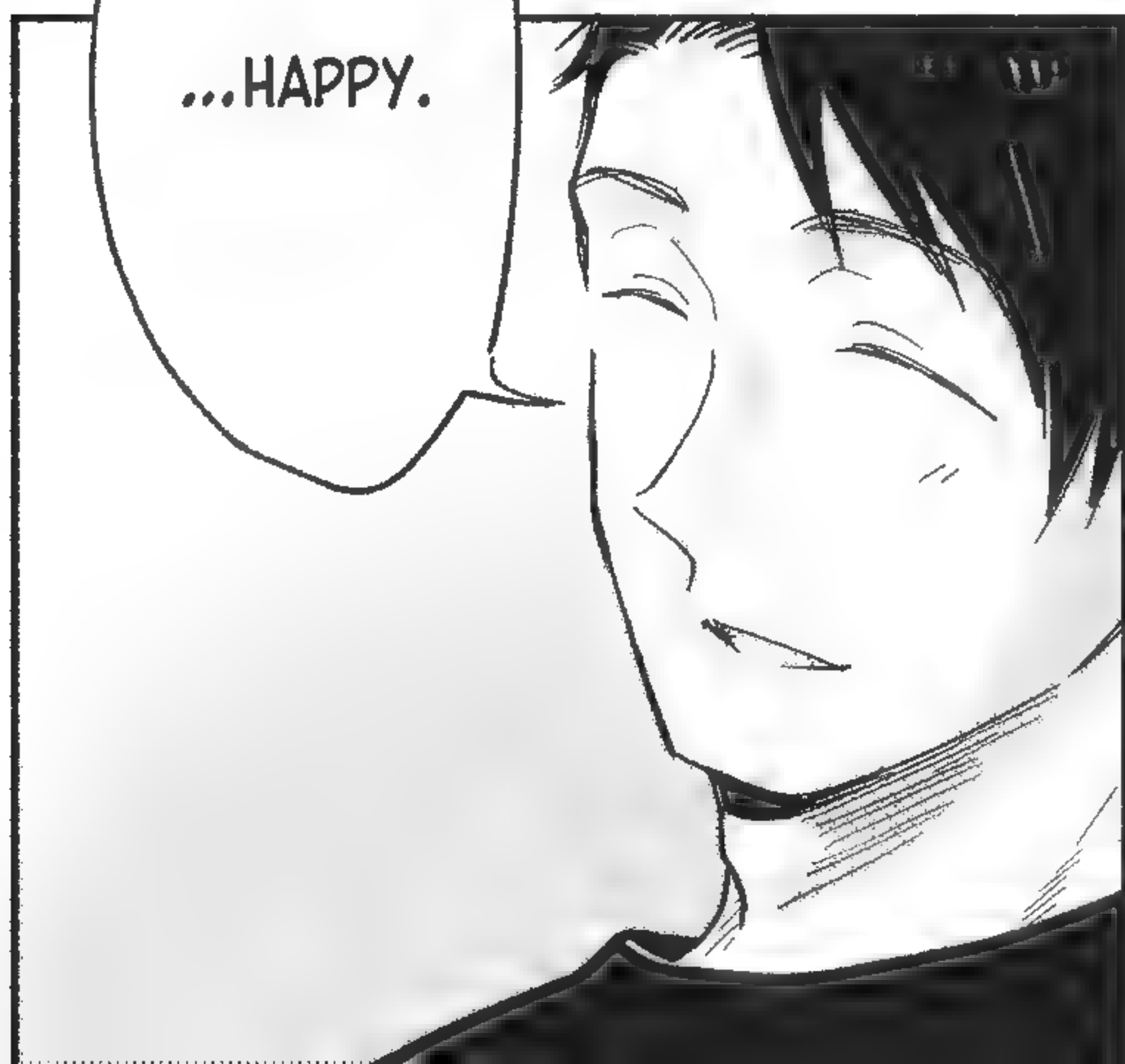
WHUMF







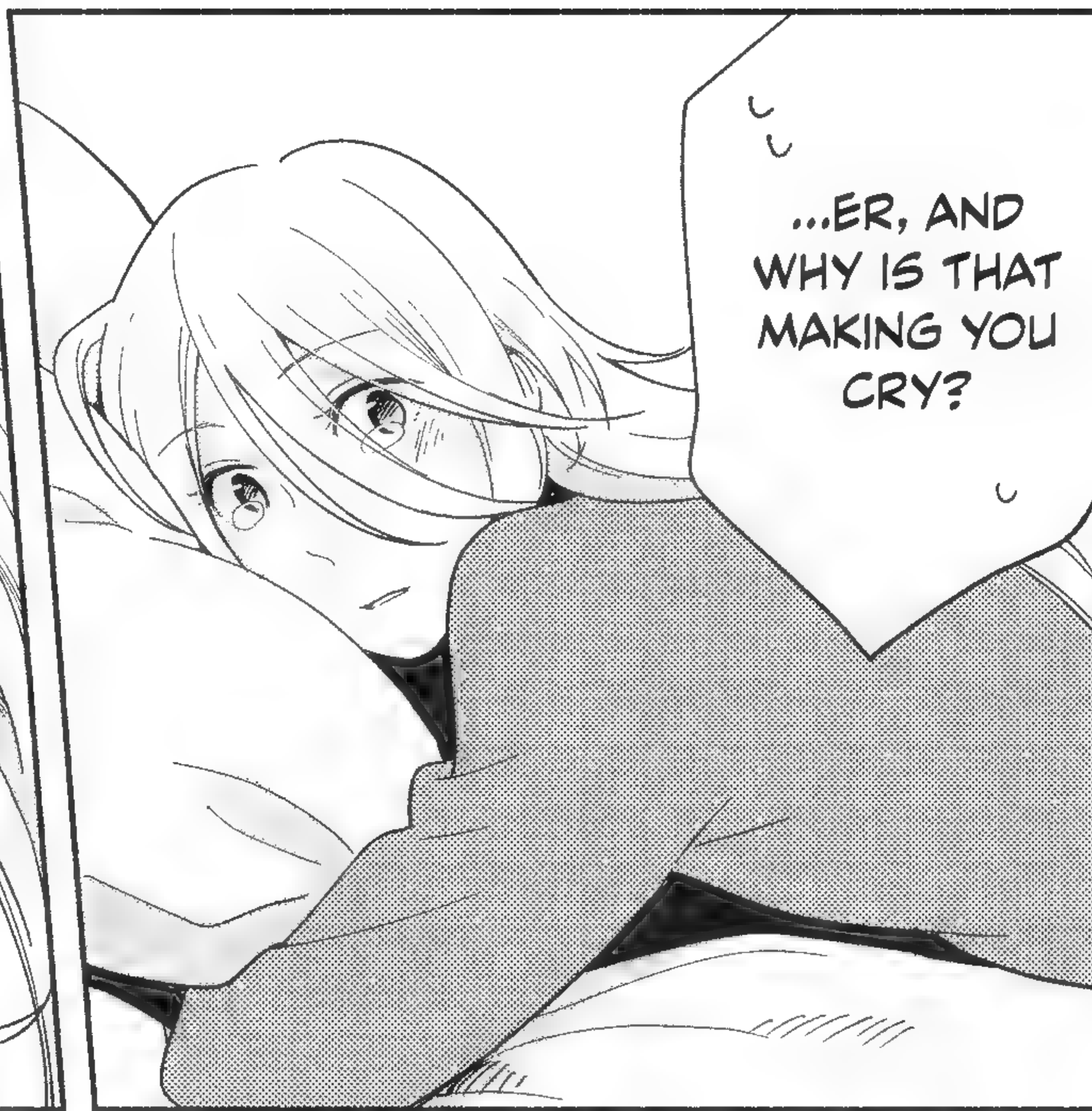






IT
MAKES
ME FEEL
LIKE YOU'RE
GOING TO
GO AWAY.

BECAUSE
THAT SWEET,
INNOCENT
SMILE...



...ER, AND
WHY IS THAT
MAKING YOU
CRY?



DON'T
GO.

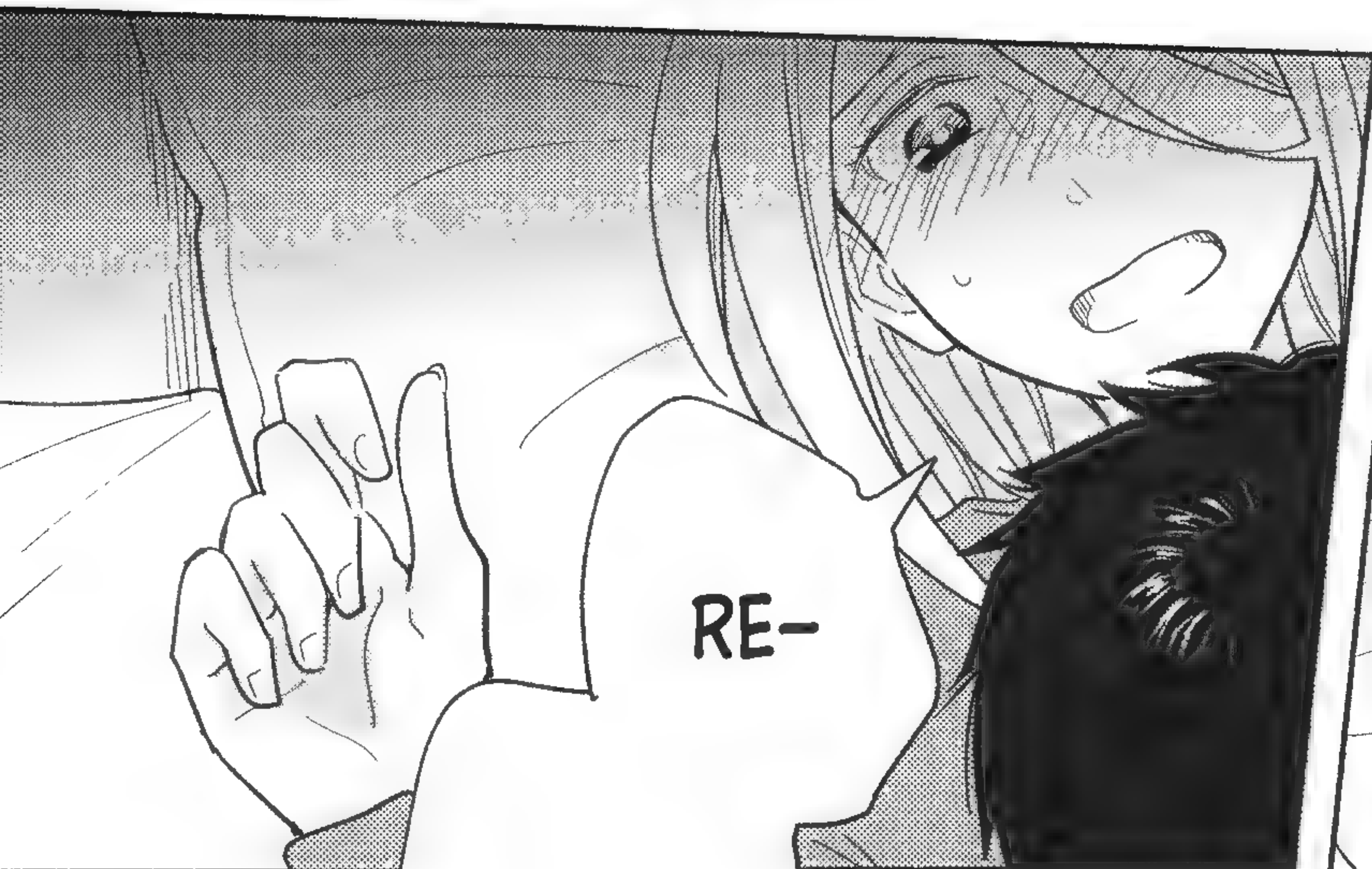


WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
AB-





I
LOVE
YOU.

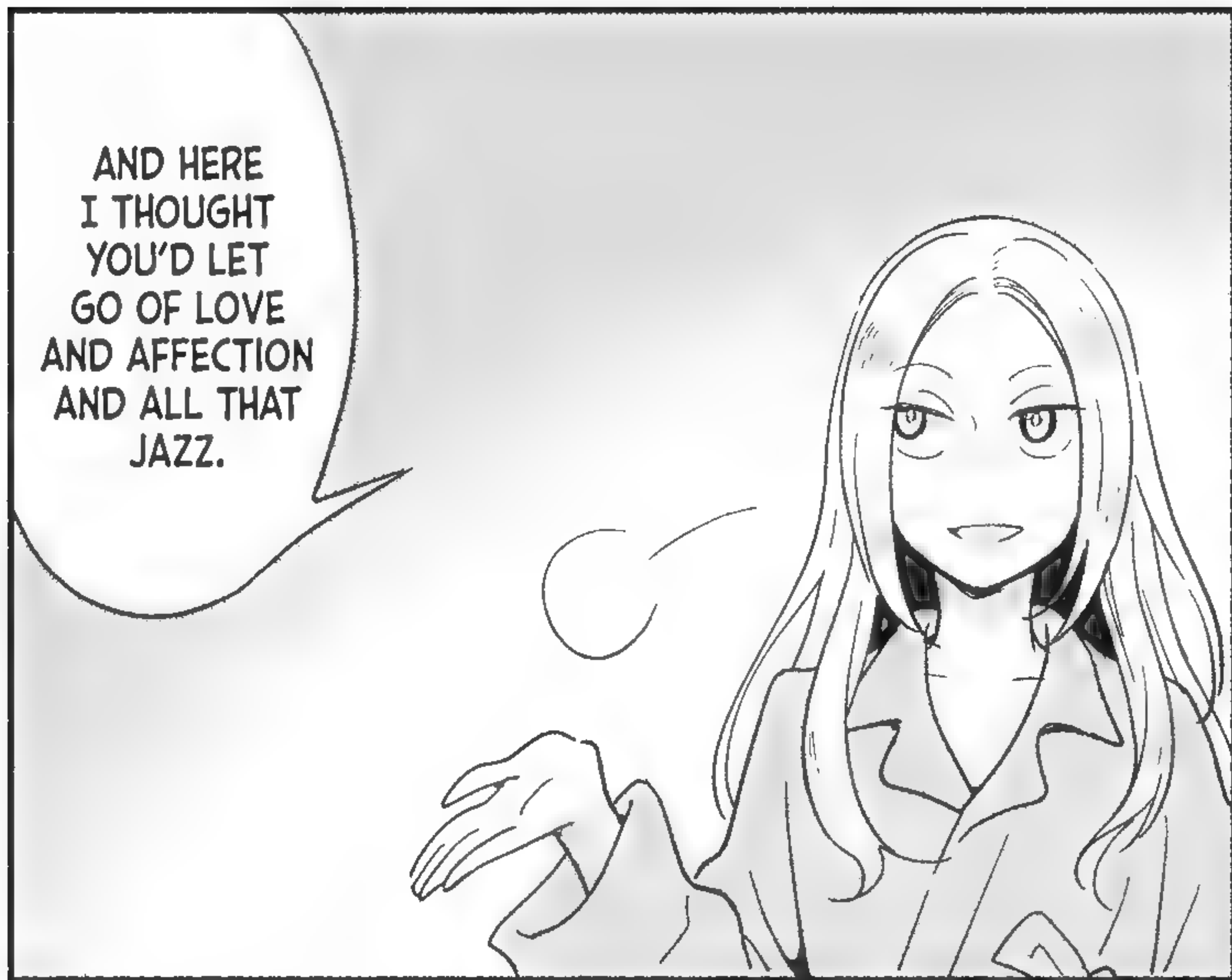


REIICHI-
KU-

GWIP
//
//
//



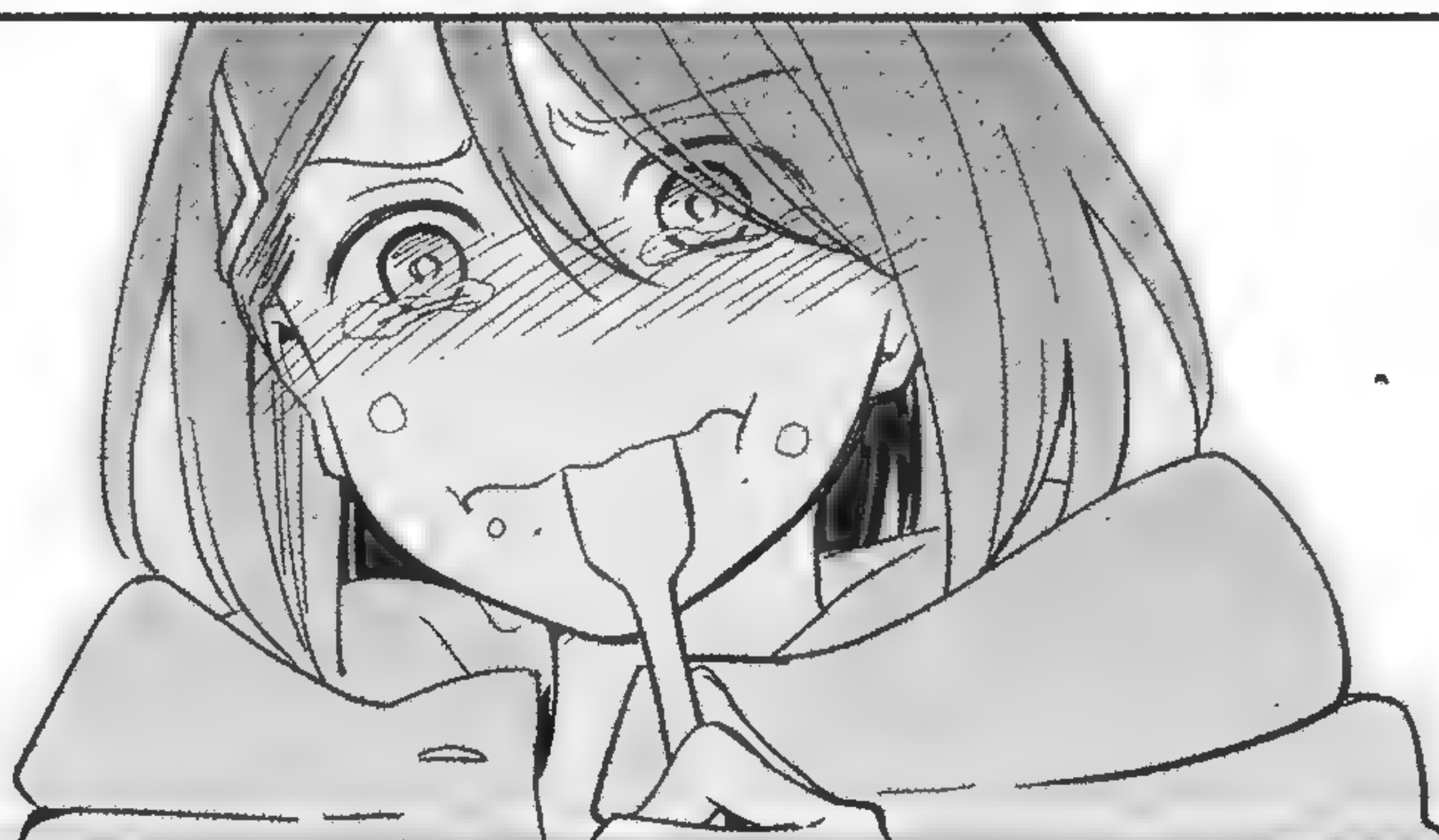




AND HERE
I THOUGHT
YOU'D LET
GO OF LOVE
AND AFFECTION
AND ALL THAT
JAZZ.



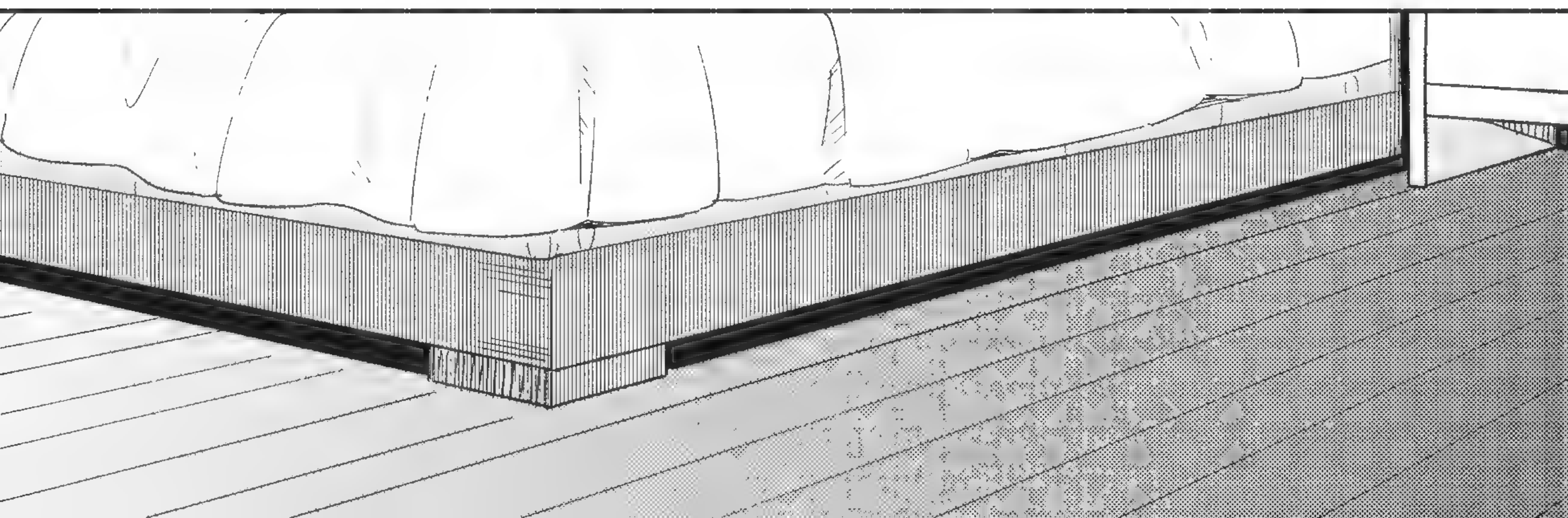
...ANY HOPE
THAT SHE'LL
RETURN MY
FEELINGS.



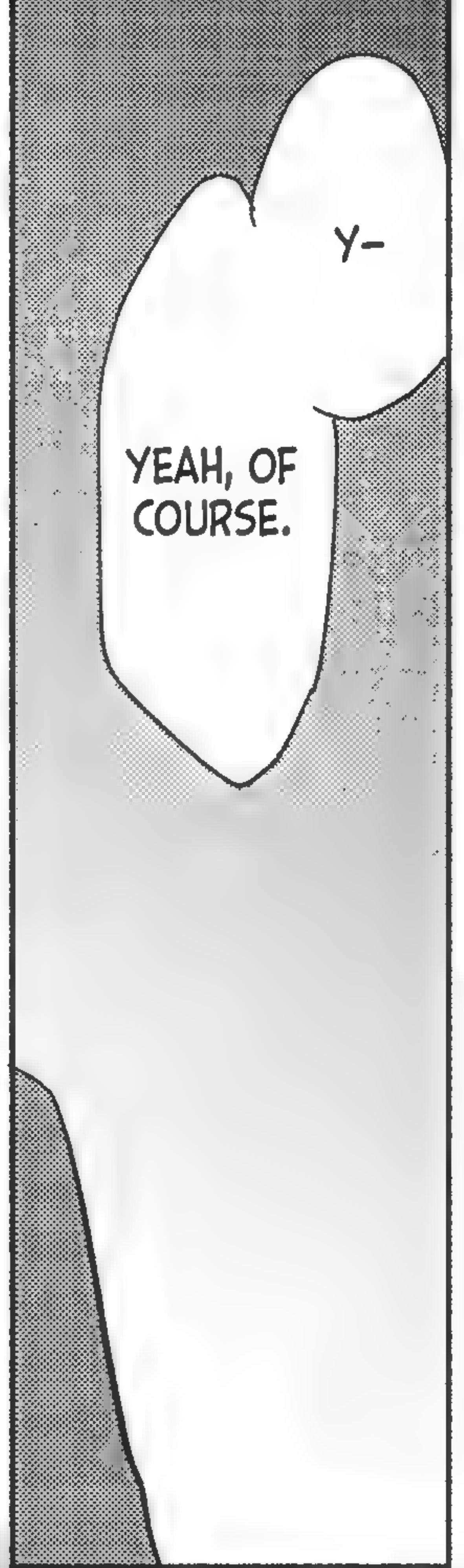
EVEN IF
I HAVE
GIVEN
UP...

WHAT
HURTS,
HURTS!

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.









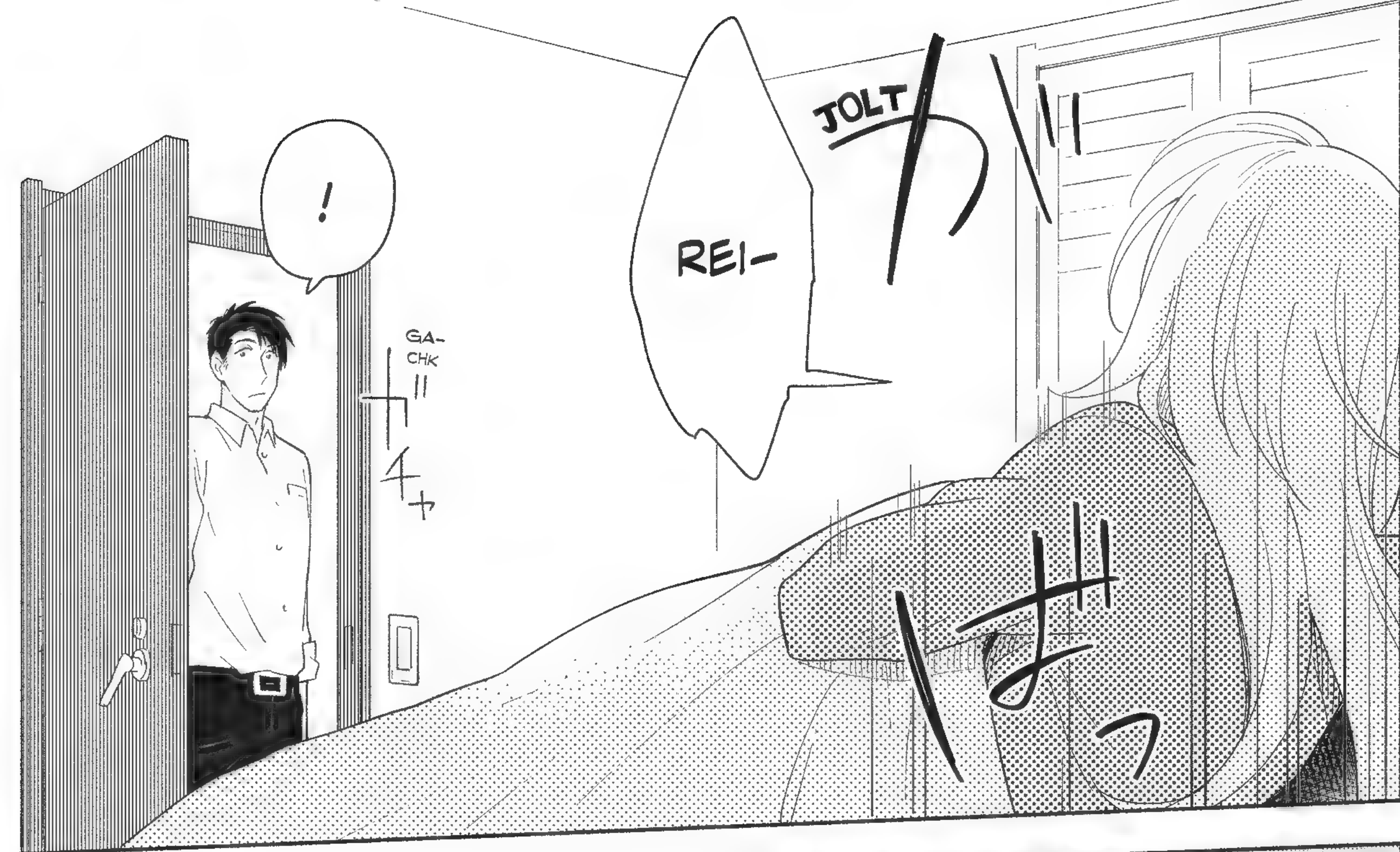
GOOD
NIGHT.
SWEET
DREAMS.

*If I Could
Reach You*

*If I Could
Reach You*

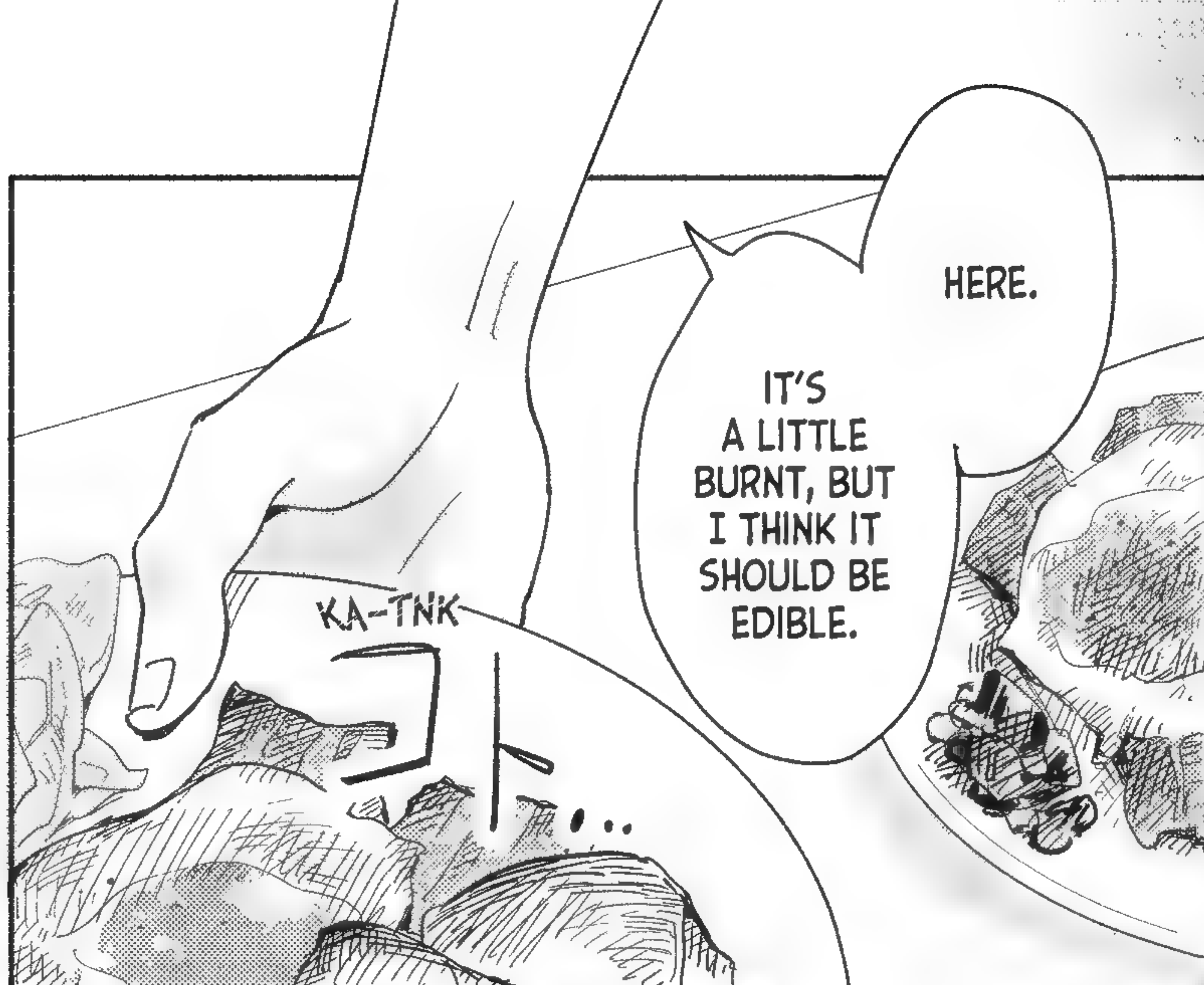






ALL THIS
WORRYING IS
EXHAUSTING.





IF IT'S
GOING TO
BOTHER
ME THIS
MUCH...

...THEN
I SHOULD
JUST COME
OUT AND
ASK REI-KUN
ABOUT IT.



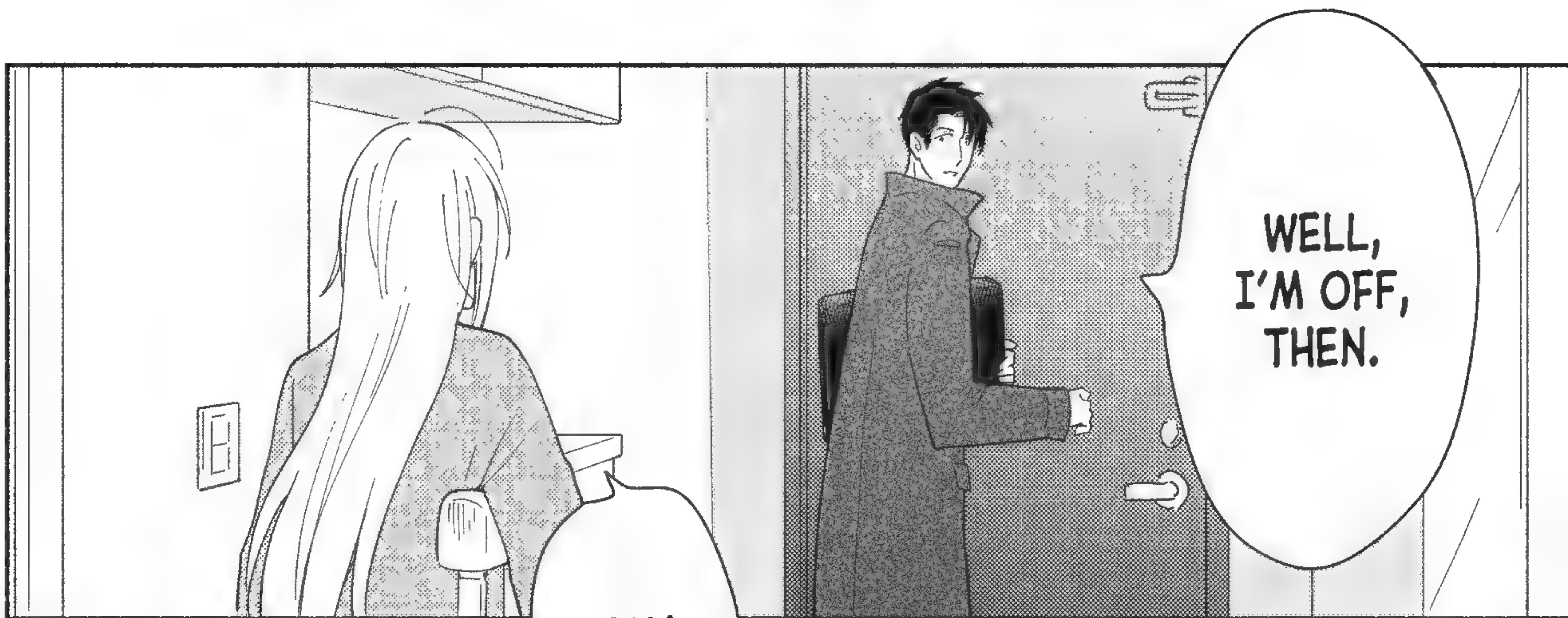


...AM I
HESITATING?

SO WHY...

...IT'S
NOTHING.

Egg-
shell...



WELL,
I'M OFF,
THEN.

OH!

REI-
KUN,
WAIT!



UM...

WELL.

HUH?

SOME-
THING
WRONG?





I WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT
SOME-
THING.

IF
YOU...
DON'T
MIND.

WHEN
YOU GET
BACK
TONIGHT,
I...



YEAH.
SURE.

YOU
AND UTA
GO AHEAD
AND EAT
DINNER,
OKAY?

BUT
IT'S THE
END OF
THE YEAR.
BUSY
SEASON.
I'LL BE
PRETTY
LATE.



HUH?

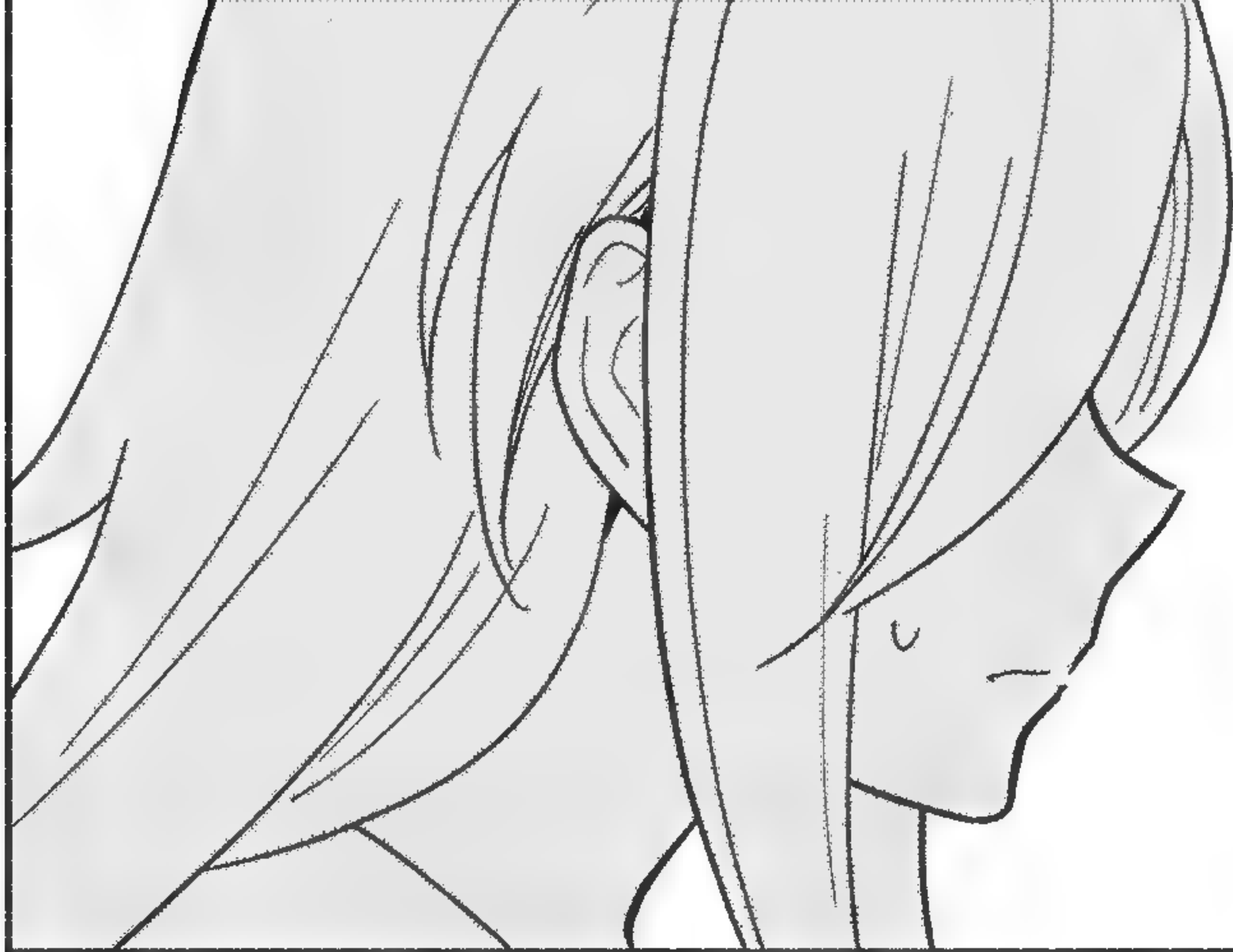
'COURSE
NOT.



I
SAID
IT.

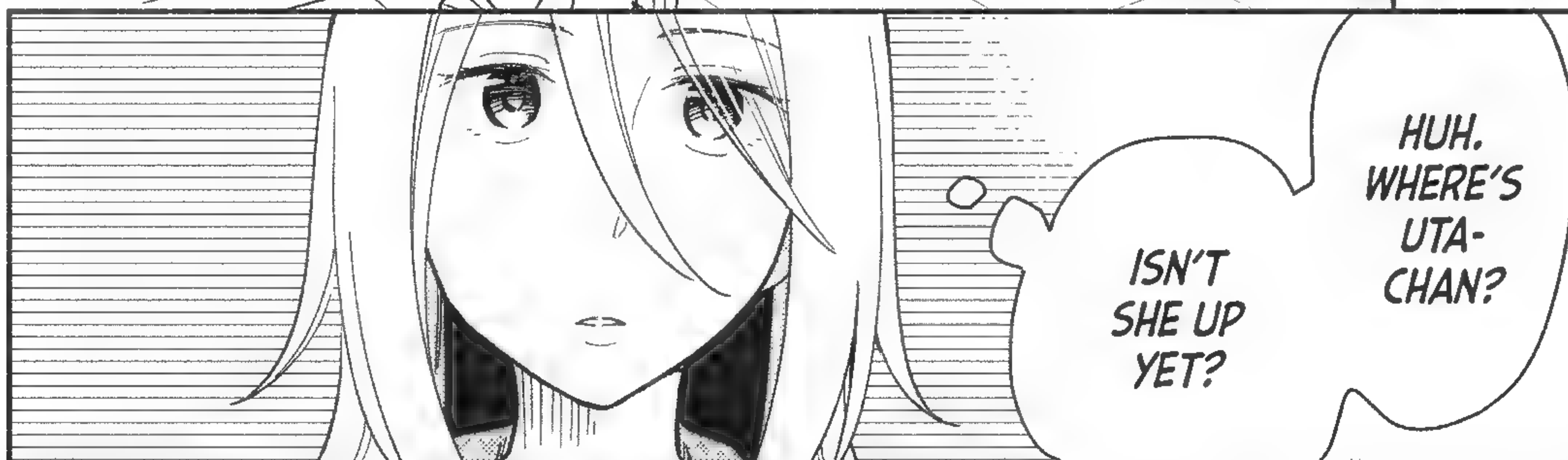
WELL...





NOW
I HAVE
TO TALK
TO HIM.

I HAVE
TO TRUST
HIM...







OF
COURSE
NOT. WHO
WOULD?



...

Urk...



WHATEVER
YOU WERE
DOING,
IT'S FINE.

BUT DID
YOU AT
LEAST LET
REIICHI-KUN
KNOW YOU
WOULD BE
OUT?



EVEN
JUST ME.
IF YOU
WANT
TO BE,
Y'KNOW,
DISCREET.

BUT MAKE
SURE YOU
LET US KNOW
THE NEXT TIME
YOU'RE STAYING
OUT, OKAY?

I'LL KEEP
MY MOUTH
SHUT THIS
TIME.

SURE...



BONK

JUST
TAKE
IT EASY
ON THE
NIGHT-
LIFE.



WE
STILL
HAVE TO
CLEAN
UP FROM
CHRISTMAS,
AND—

HARD-
LY!

OH!

**Now,
then!**
AS PAYMENT,
I'M GONNA
MAKE YOU WORK
EEEXTRA HARD
WHEN WE DO OUR
NEW YEAR'S
CLEANING! ♦



YOU'RE
NOT JUST
GONNA
LET ME
OFF?



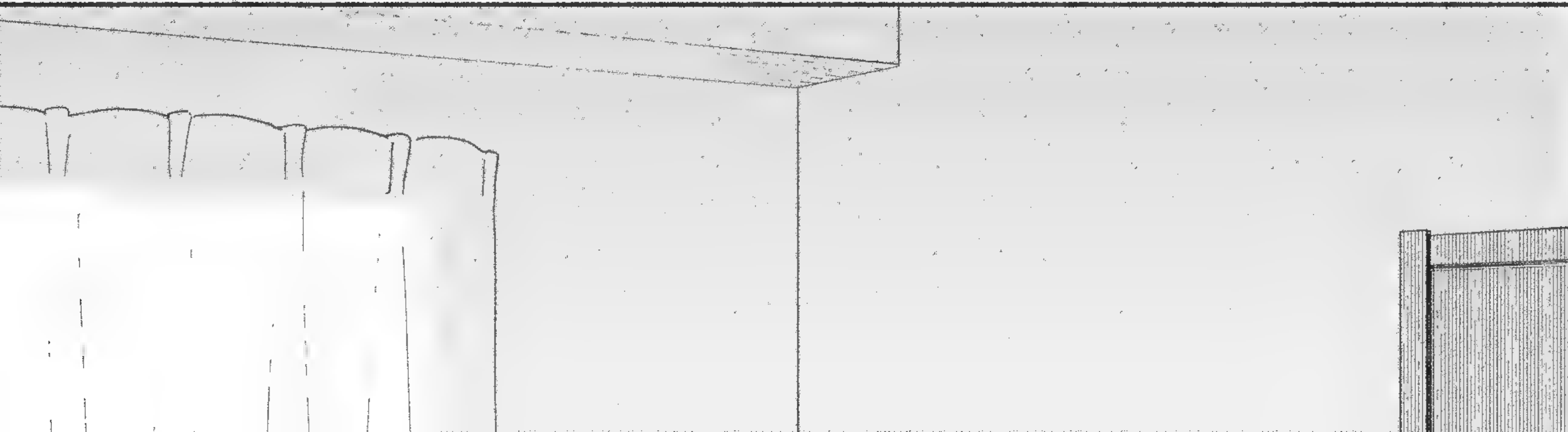


I WAS JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF SO MUCH.

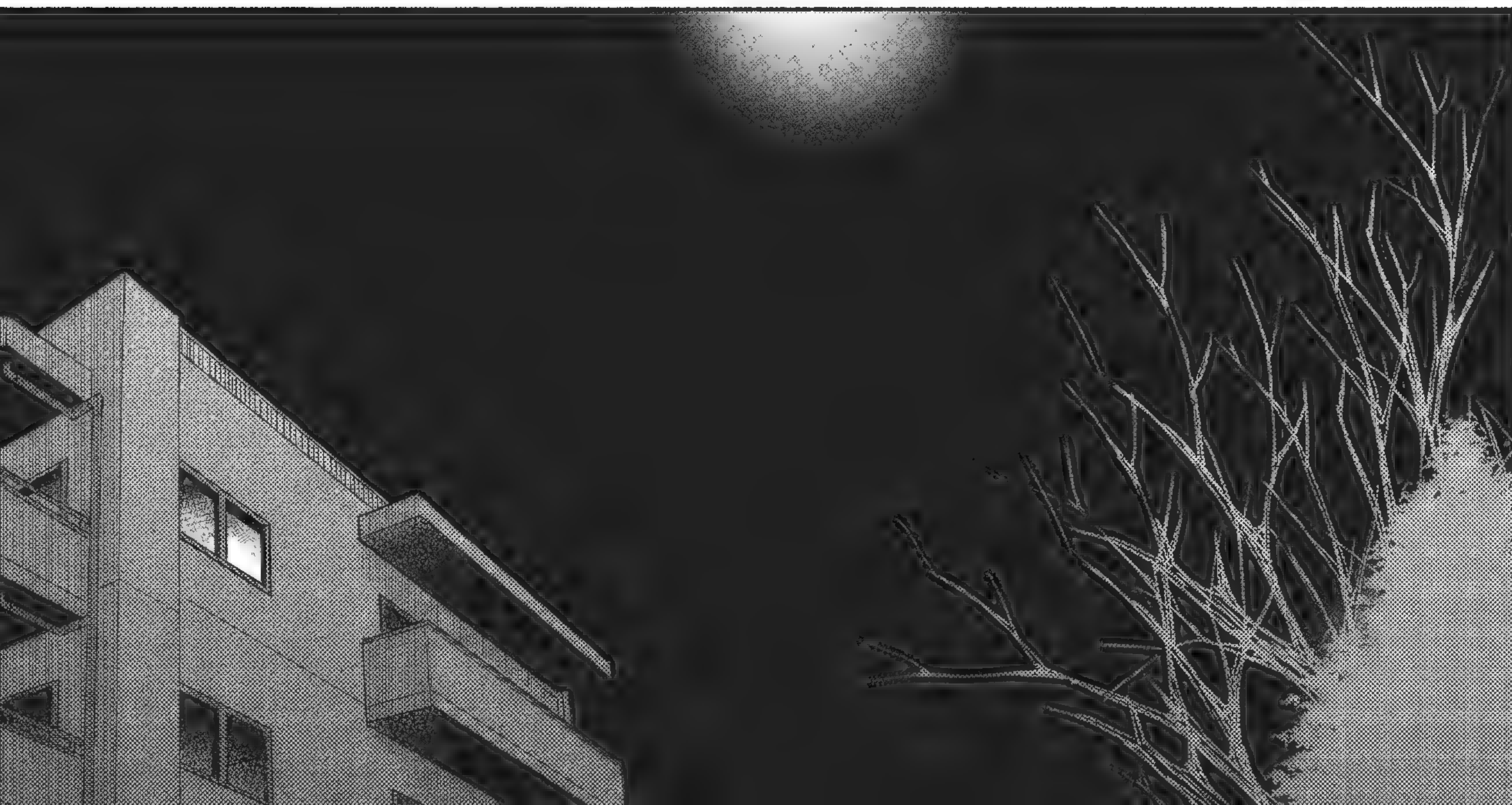
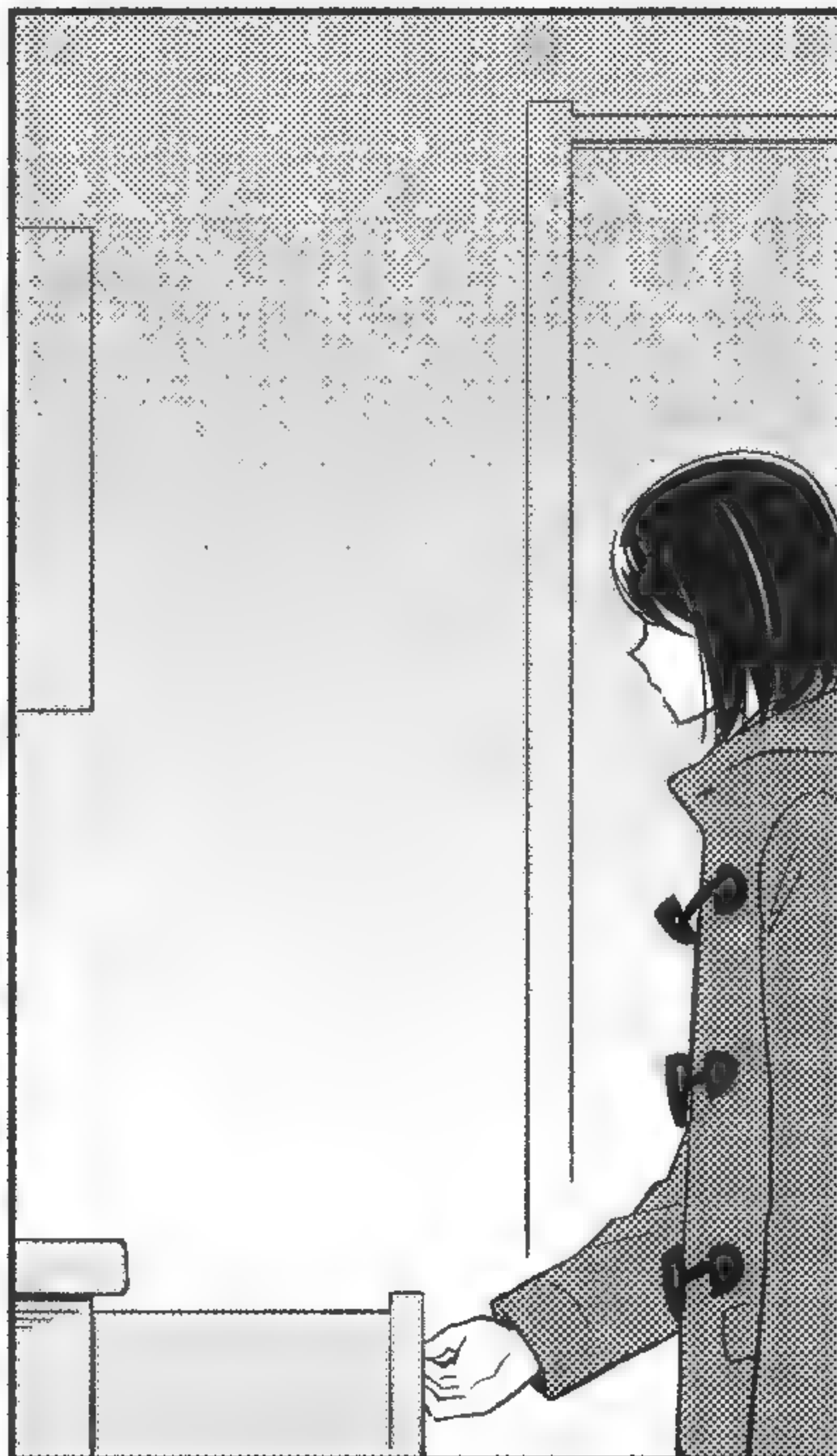
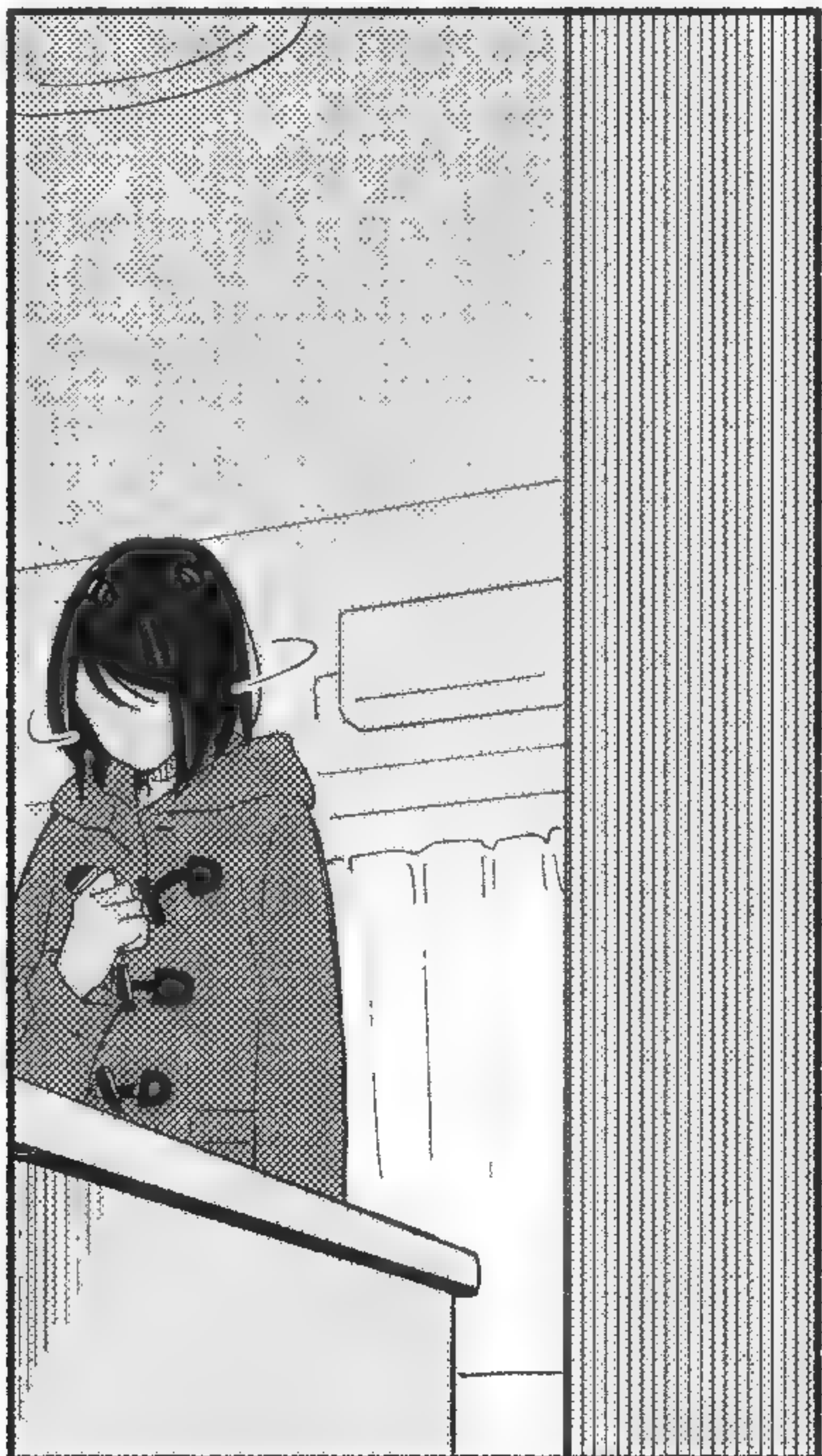
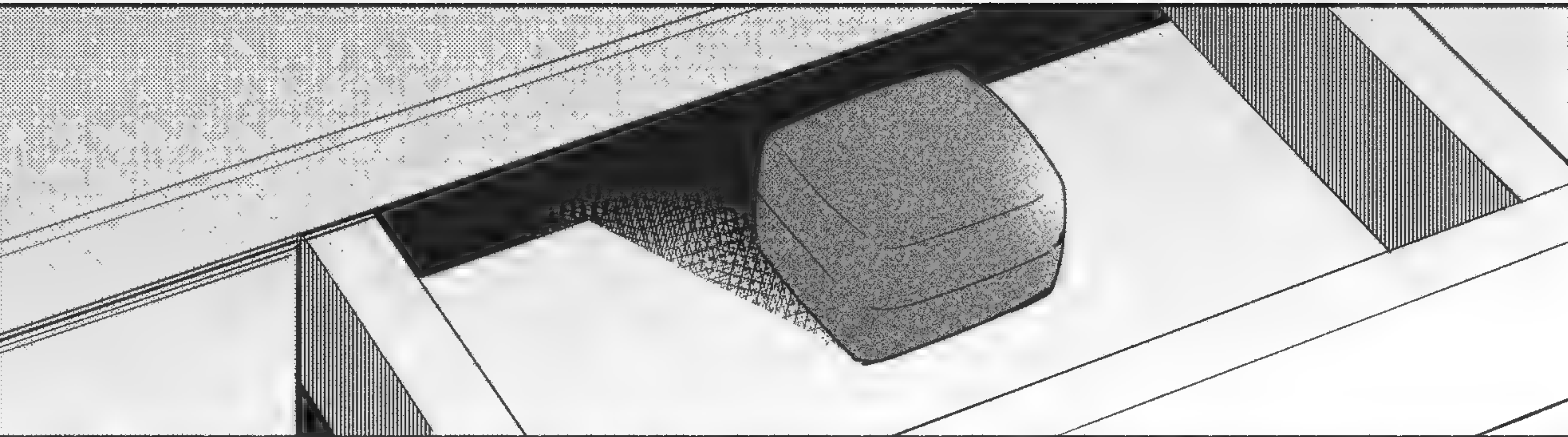
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

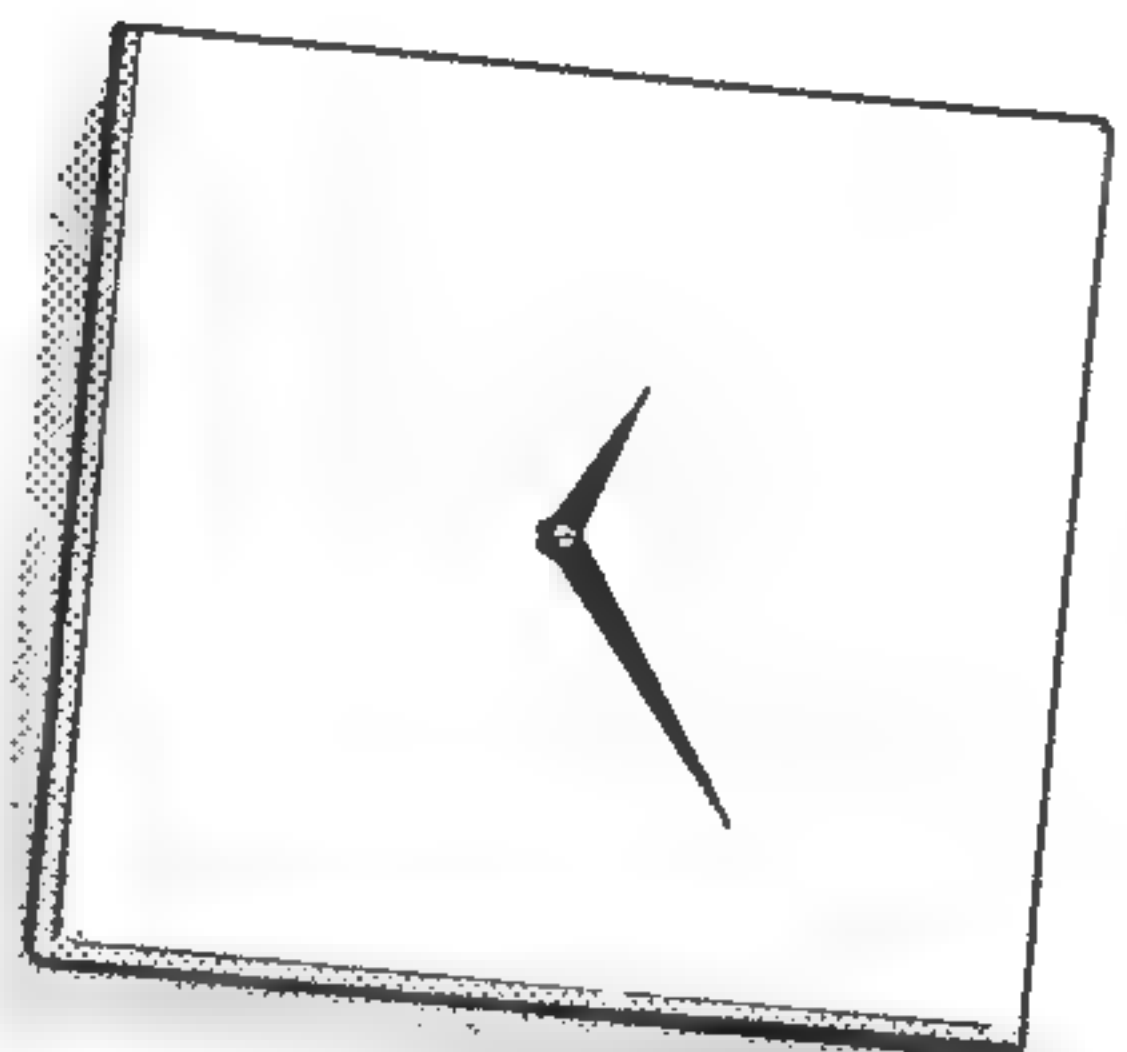
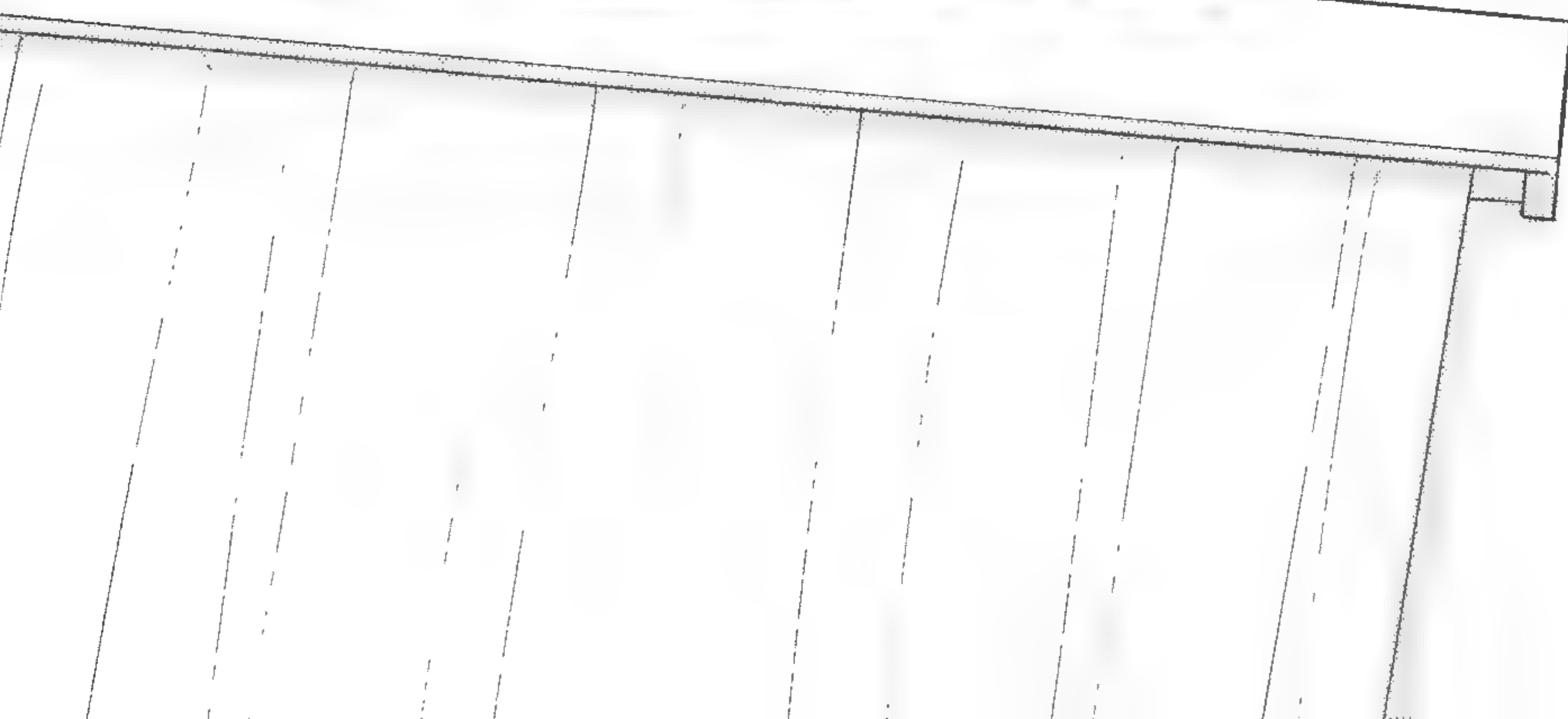
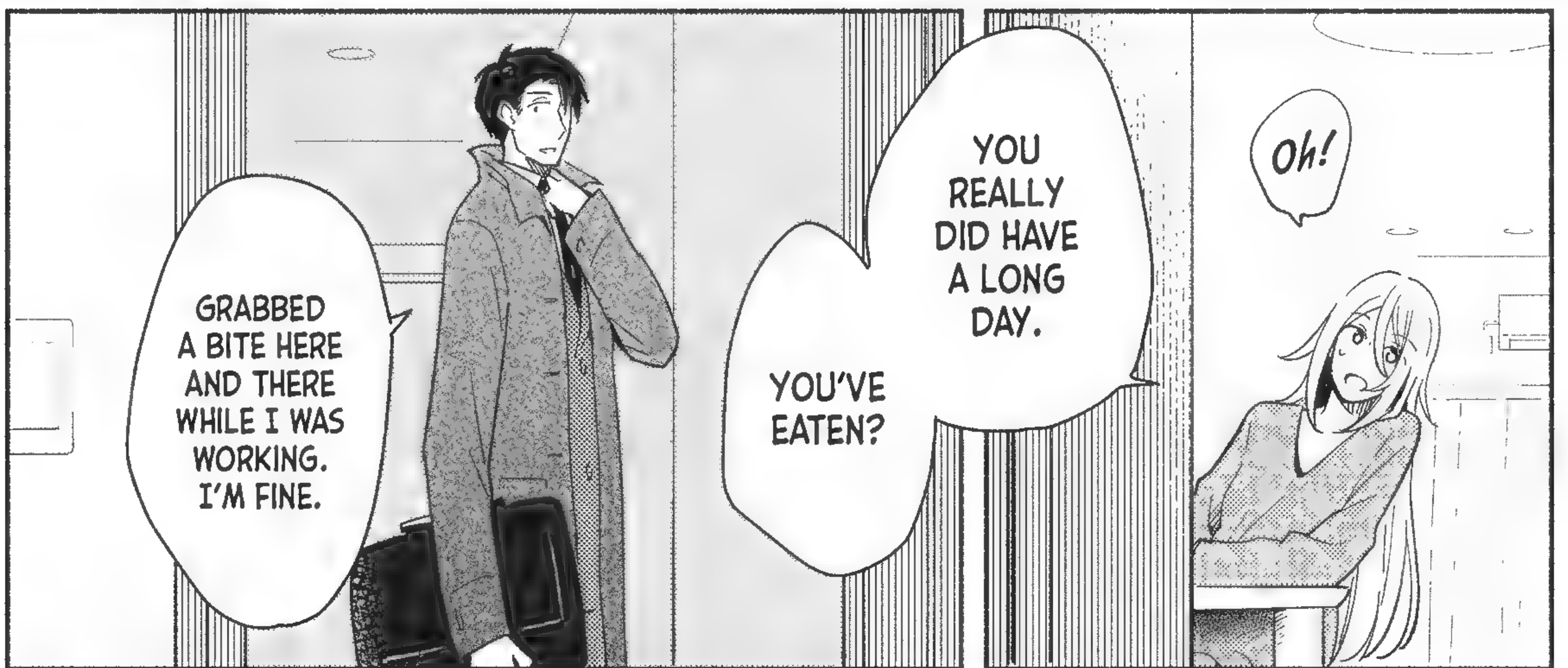
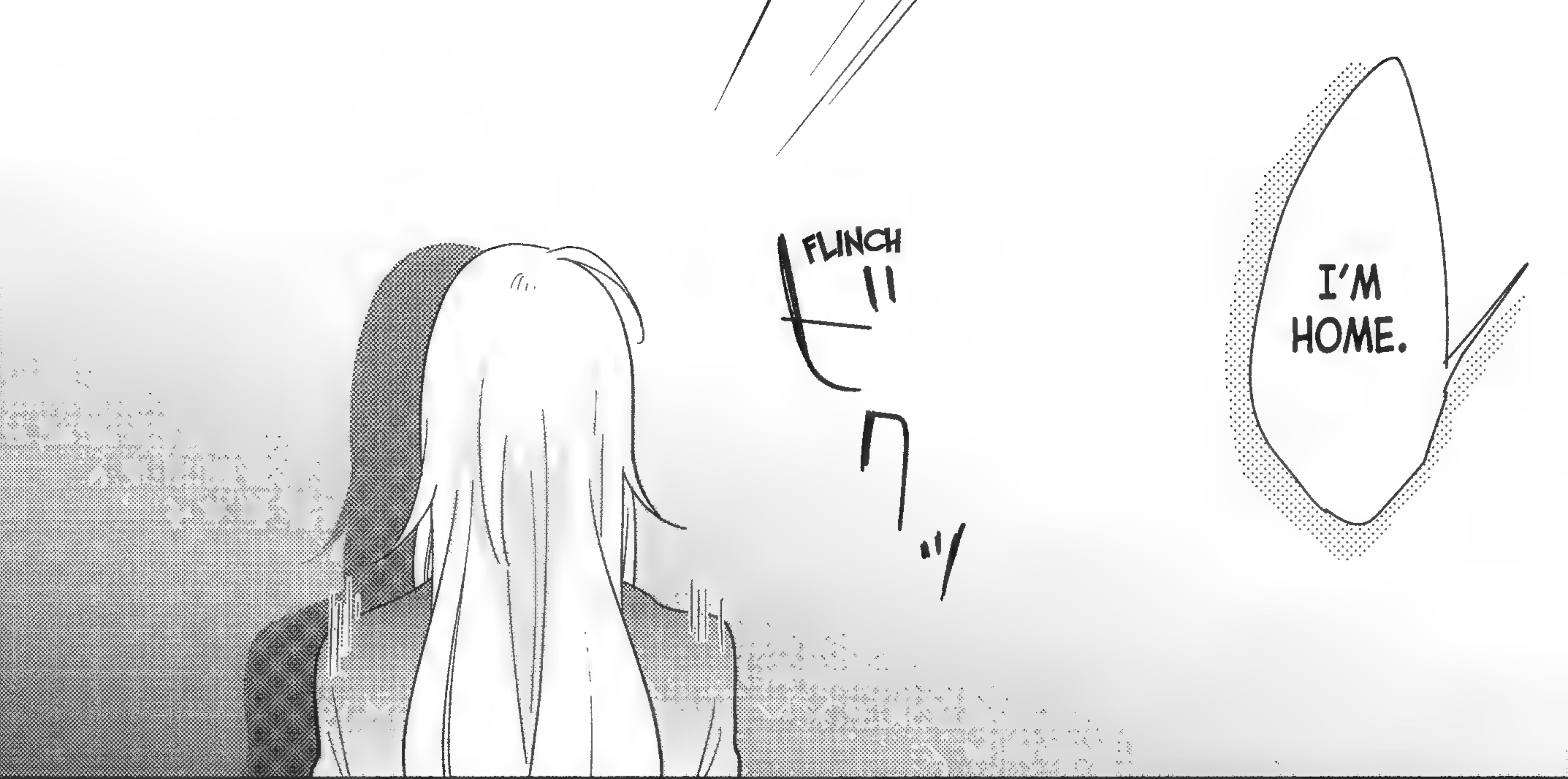


I REALLY DID. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

















YOU
MAKE IT
SOUND
LIKE HE'S
NOT EVEN
FAMILY...

THEN
I GUESS
SO.

IF HE HAS
TO CALL ME
WHEN WE'VE
BARELY BEEN
SPEAKING...



CAN'T
TELL.



HOLD
DOWN THE
FORT HERE
UNTIL THE
NEW YEAR,
OKAY?



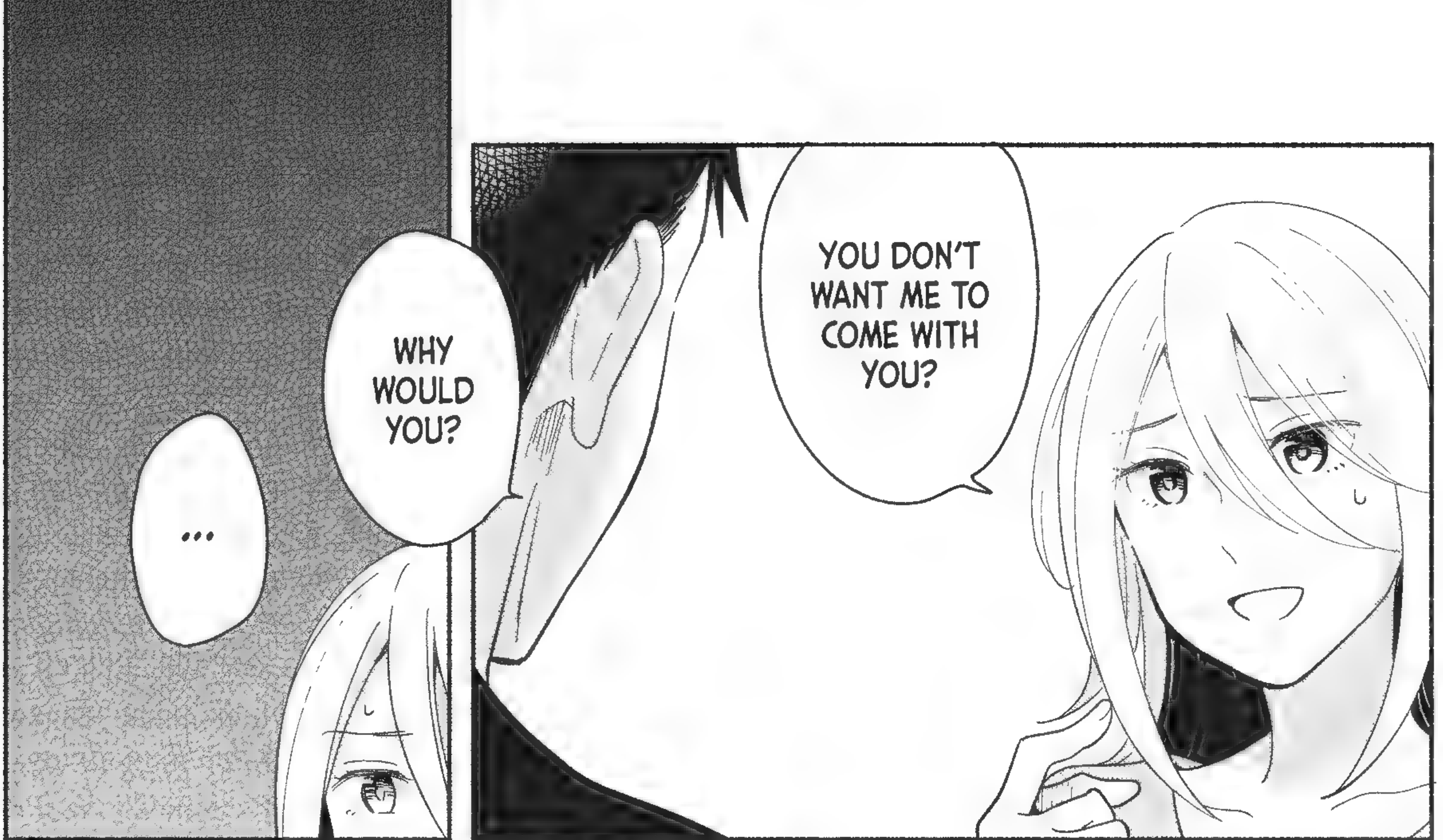
WAIT,
HANG
ON!

THEN
AGAIN...
I GUESS IT
WON'T BE EASY
FOR YOU ON
CRUTCHES.



SO I'LL
GO BY
MYSELF.

I DON'T
THINK...
...UTA
WILL
WANT
TO SEE
HIM.



WHY WOULD YOU?

...

YOU DON'T WANT ME TO COME WITH YOU?



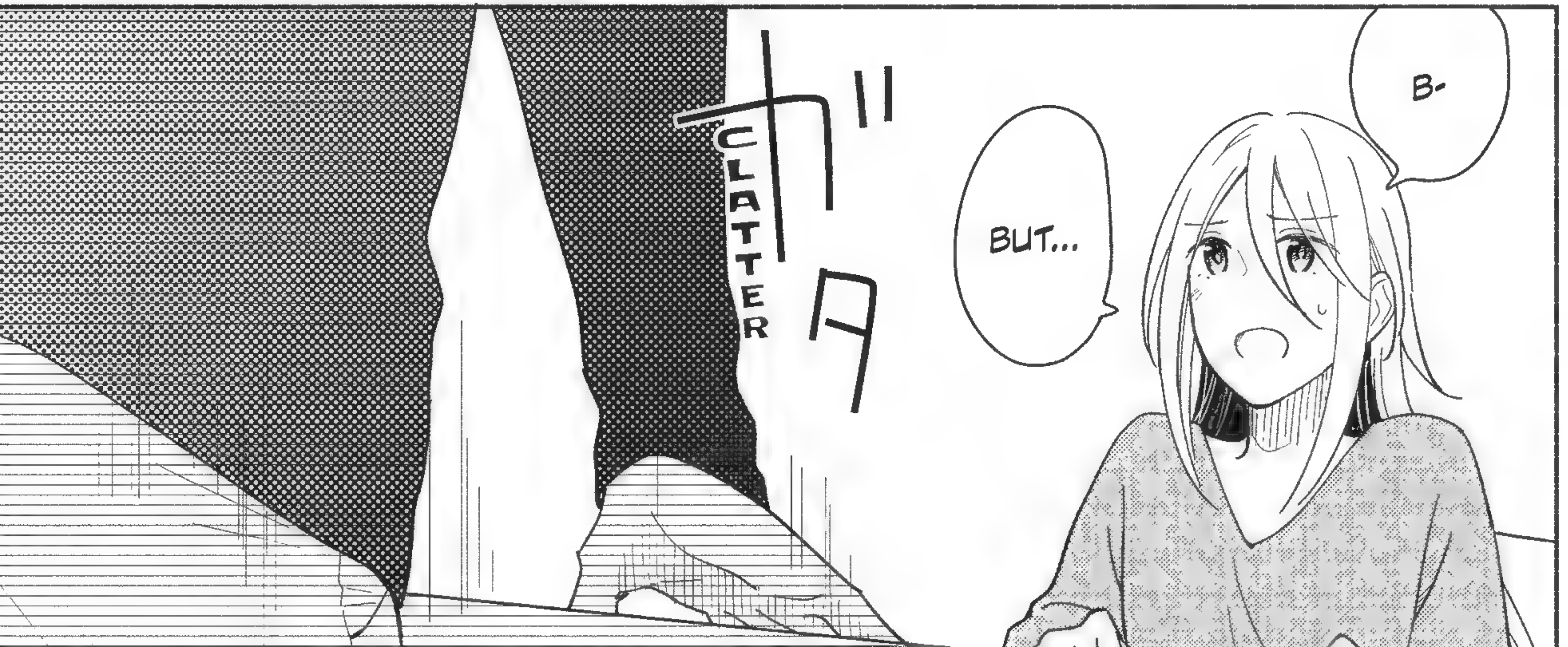
OH, THAT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THAT.

PEOPLE MIGHT THINK WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE POLITE, OR-

WELL, IT'S THE TIME FOR NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS.



THIS IS JUST MY DAD BEING A SELFISH JERK.



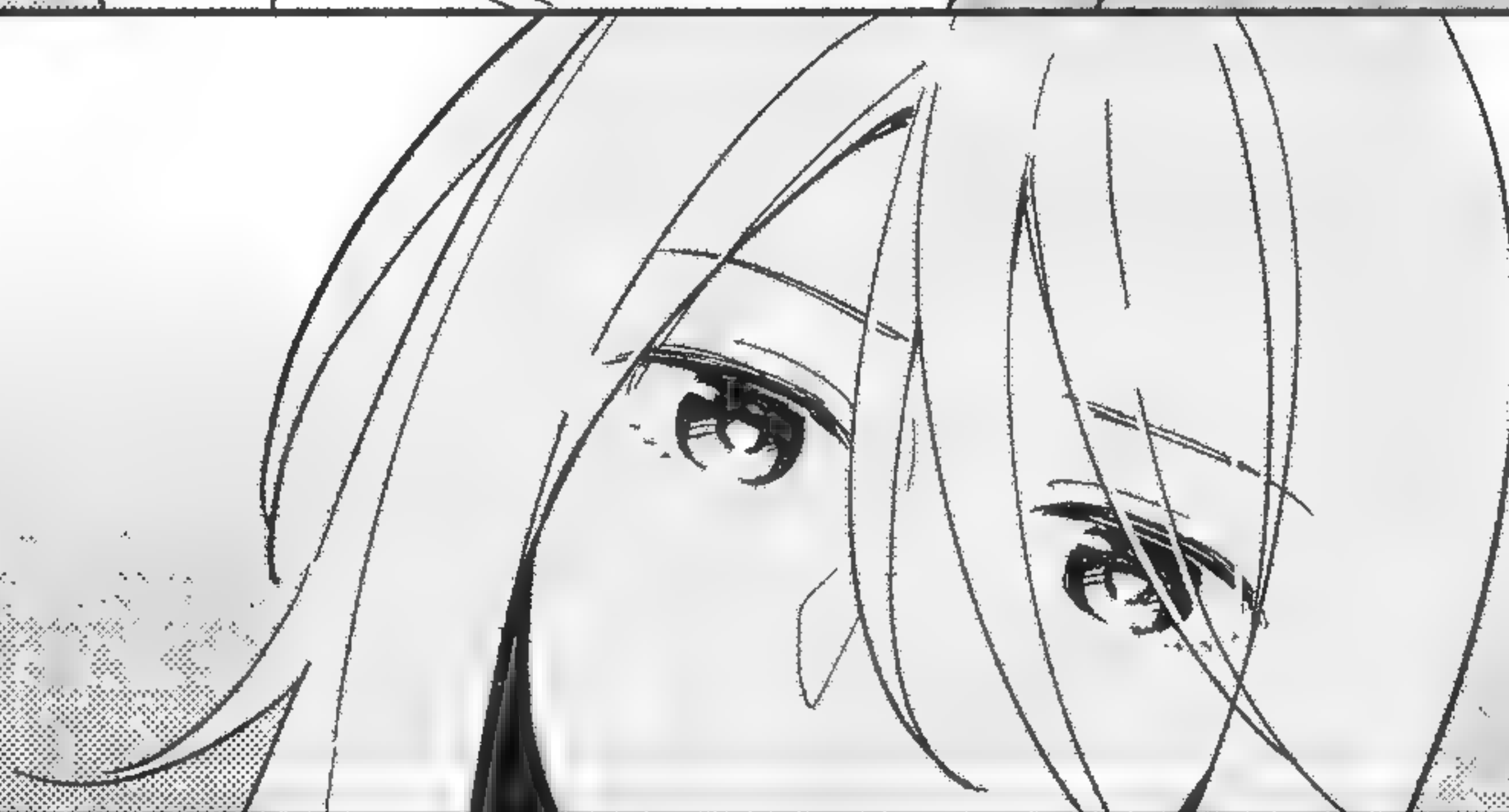
BUT...

B-

CLATTER

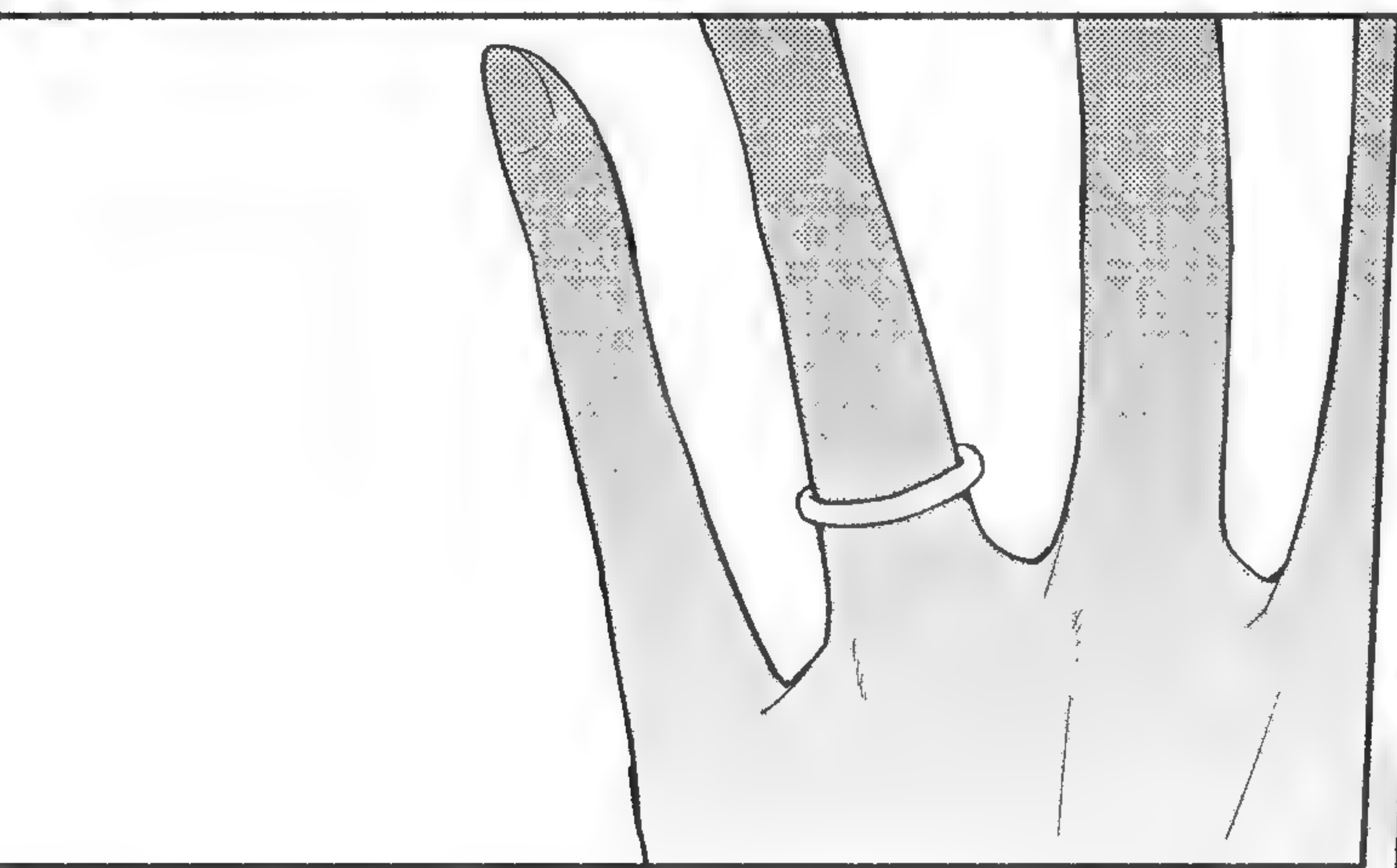


ア
...
...



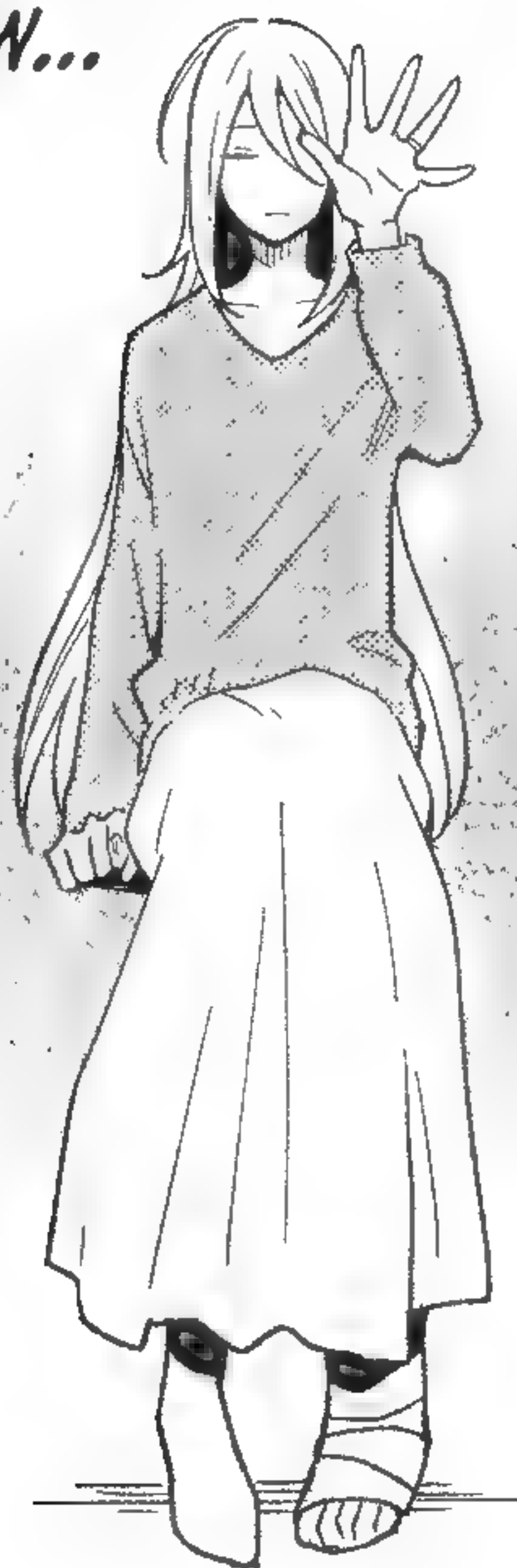
MAYBE
I REALLY
DON'T
KNOW.

MAYBE
HE'S
RIGHT.

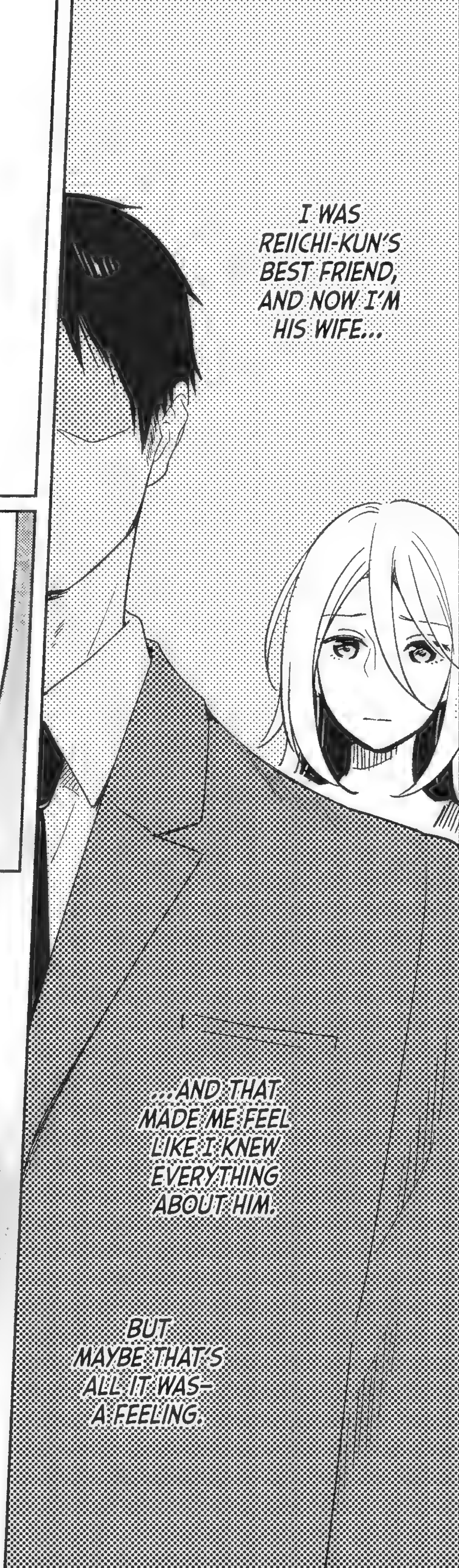


THEN
UP UNTIL
NOW...

...HOW
FRAGILE HAS
OUR BOND
REALLY BEEN...?



I WAS
REIICHI-KUN'S
BEST FRIEND,
AND NOW I'M
HIS WIFE...



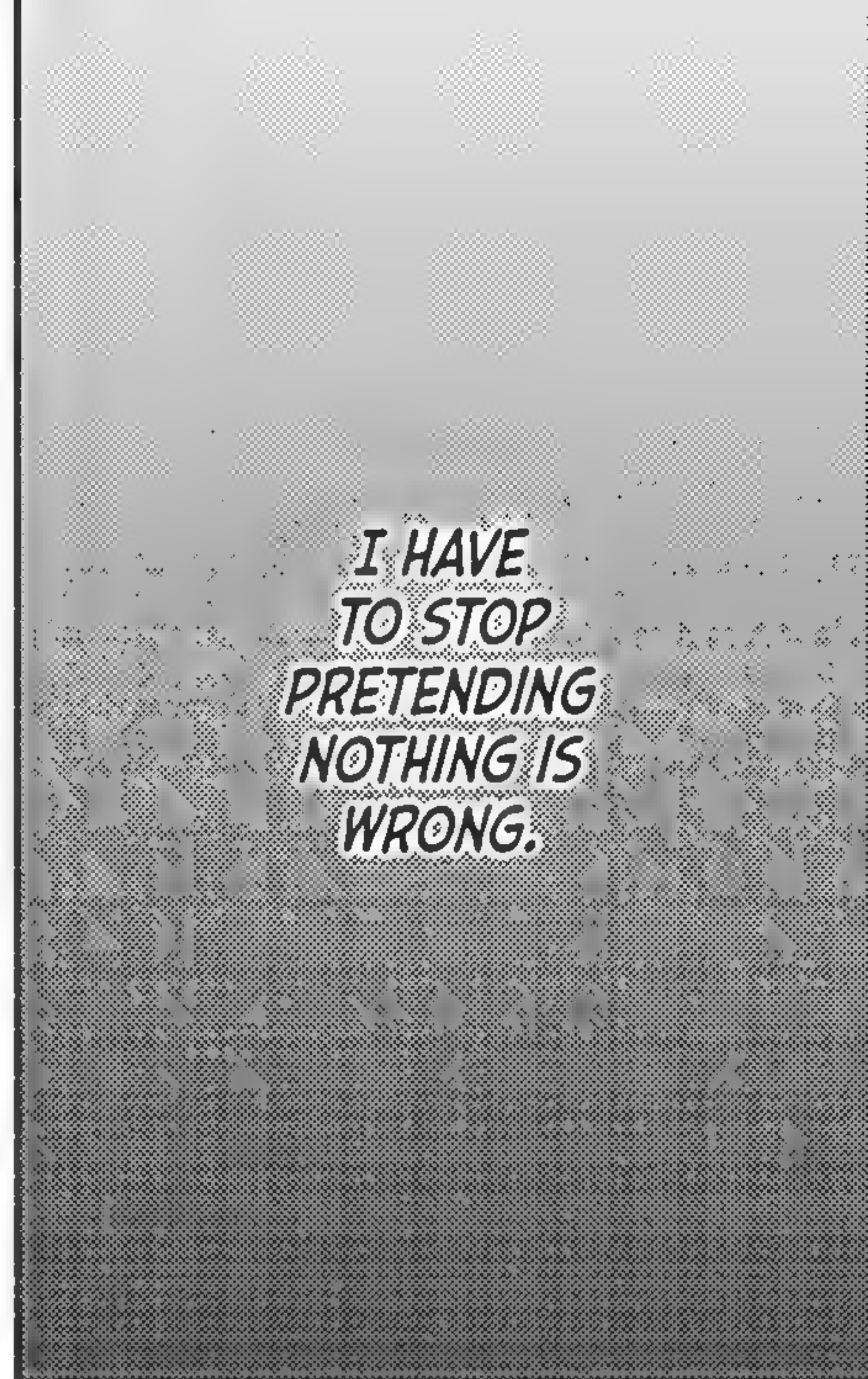
...AND THAT
MADE ME FEEL
LIKE I KNEW
EVERYTHING
ABOUT HIM.

BUT
MAYBE THAT'S
ALL IT WAS—
A FEELING.



AND I'M
SURE WE
BOTH BEAR
SOME OF
THE BLAME.

EVEN THOUGH
I MARRIED THE
PERSON I LOVE MOST,
THERE WAS A PART
OF ME THAT WASN'T
FULFILLED.



I HAVE
TO STOP
PRETENDING
NOTHING IS
WRONG.



I NEED
TO GO
BACK...



...TO WALKING
TOGETHER LIKE
WE DID WHEN
WE FIRST MET.

*A BOND
WITHOUT
THE DOUBTS.*

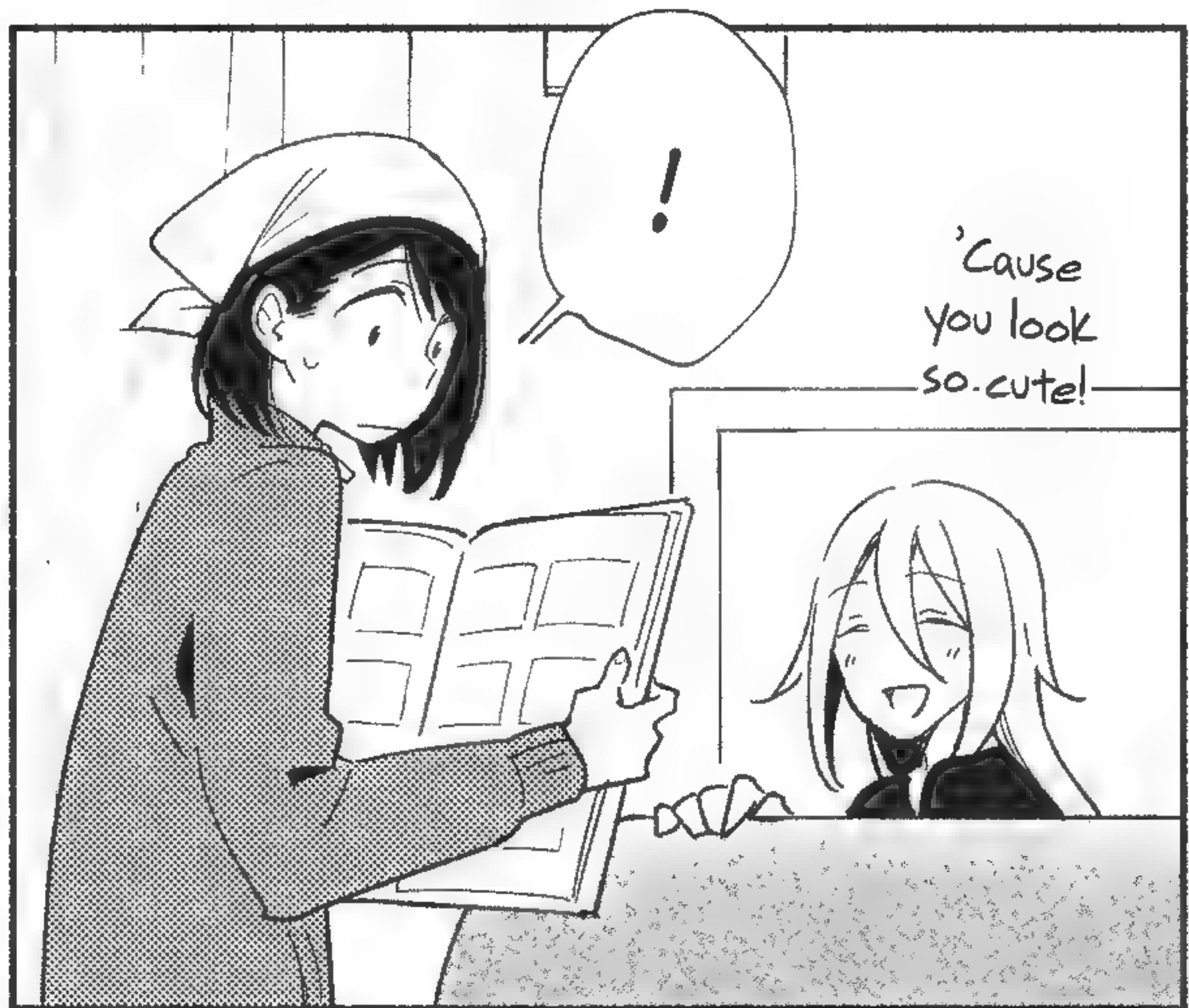
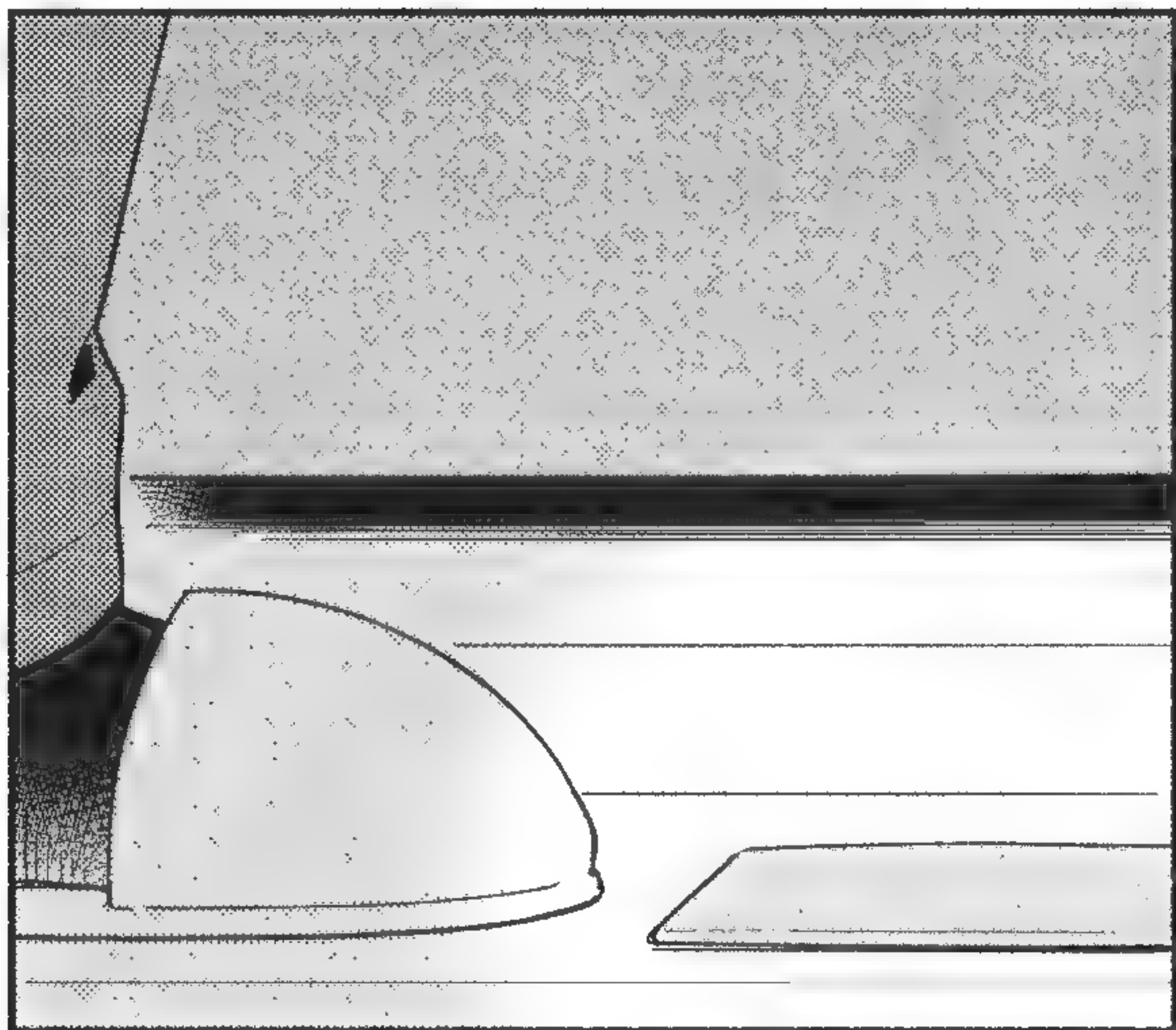
*THAT'S
WHAT
I WANT.*

HEY,
ONEE-
CHAN!

plod
/ 0
/ A

plod
/ 0
/ A







LUCKY
US.

YEAH?

I'D TOTALLY
FORGOTTEN
ABOUT THIS.

IT'S
LIKE OUR
REWARD
FOR DOING
ALL THIS
CLEAN-
ING!

GOSH!



COME
ON. I'D
LIKE
TO GET
AWAY.

DON'T
ASK ME.
SPEND
IT ON
YOUR-
SELF!

HUH?

ANYWHERE
YOU WANT
TO GO, UTA-
CHAN?



A
PERFECT
AMOUNT
FOR A
LITTLE
TRIP.

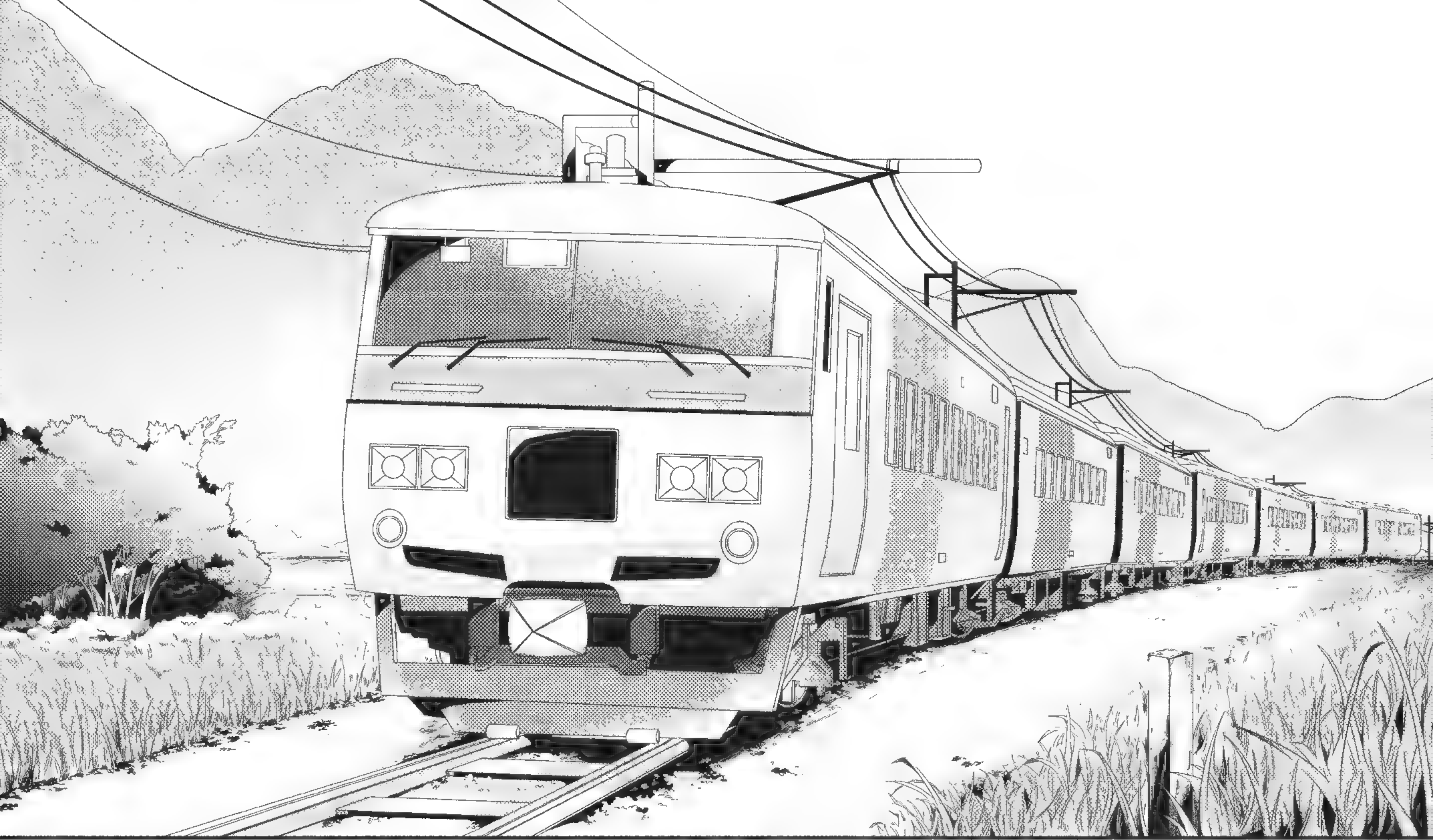


NO-
WHERE
TOO
CLOSE.
JUST
YOU
AND
ME.

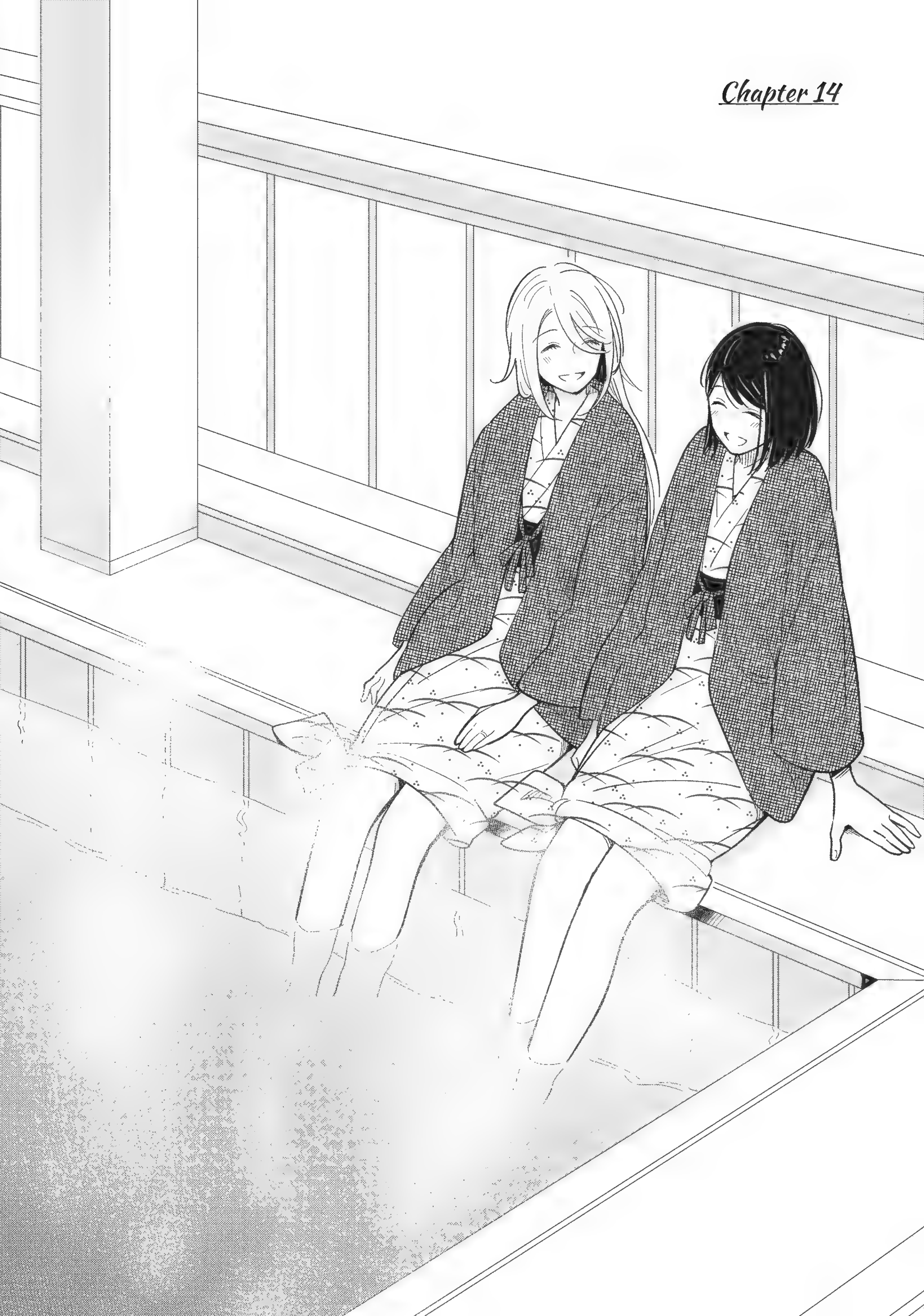
SOMEWHERE
I CAN JUST
RESET.

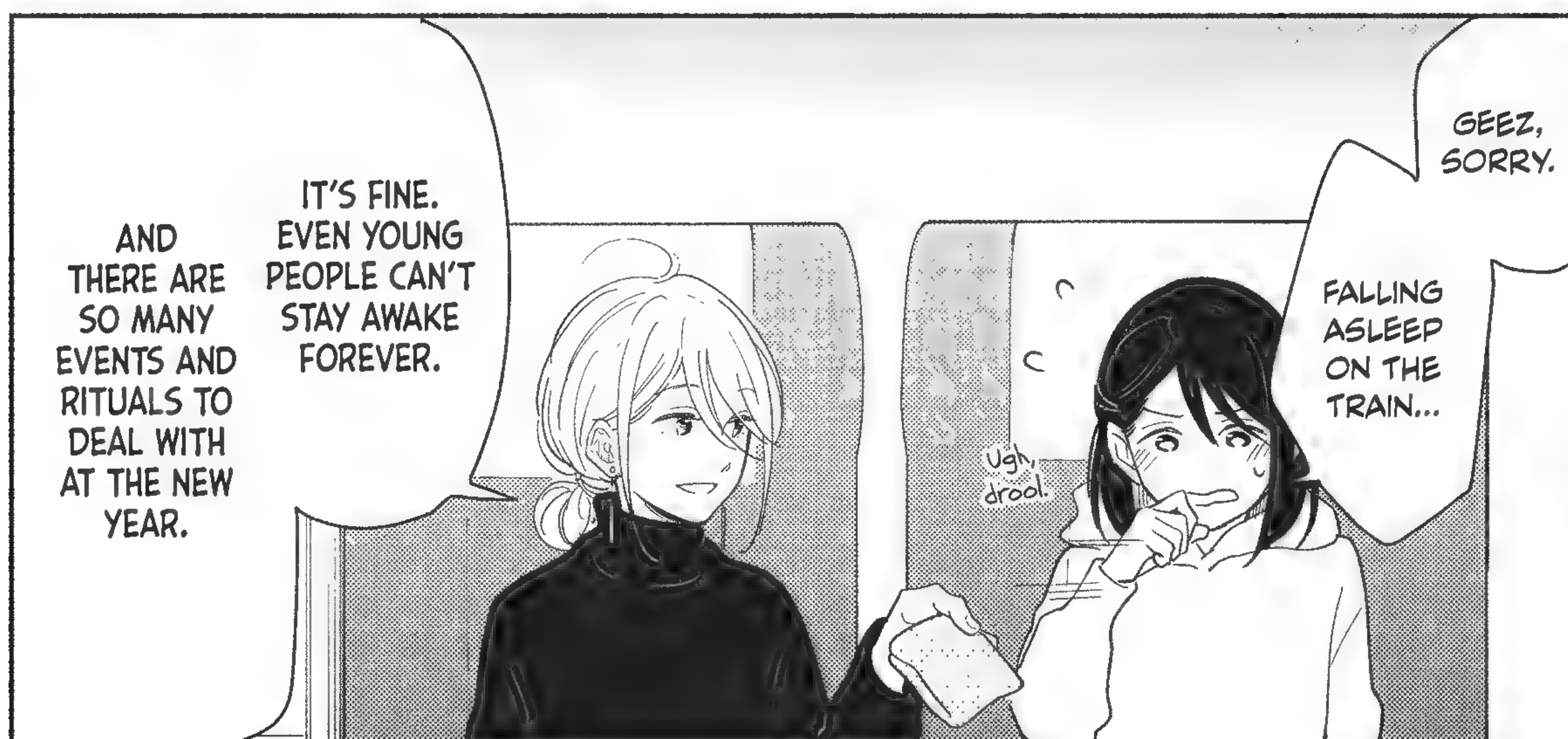
*If I Could
Reach You*

*If I Could
Reach You*

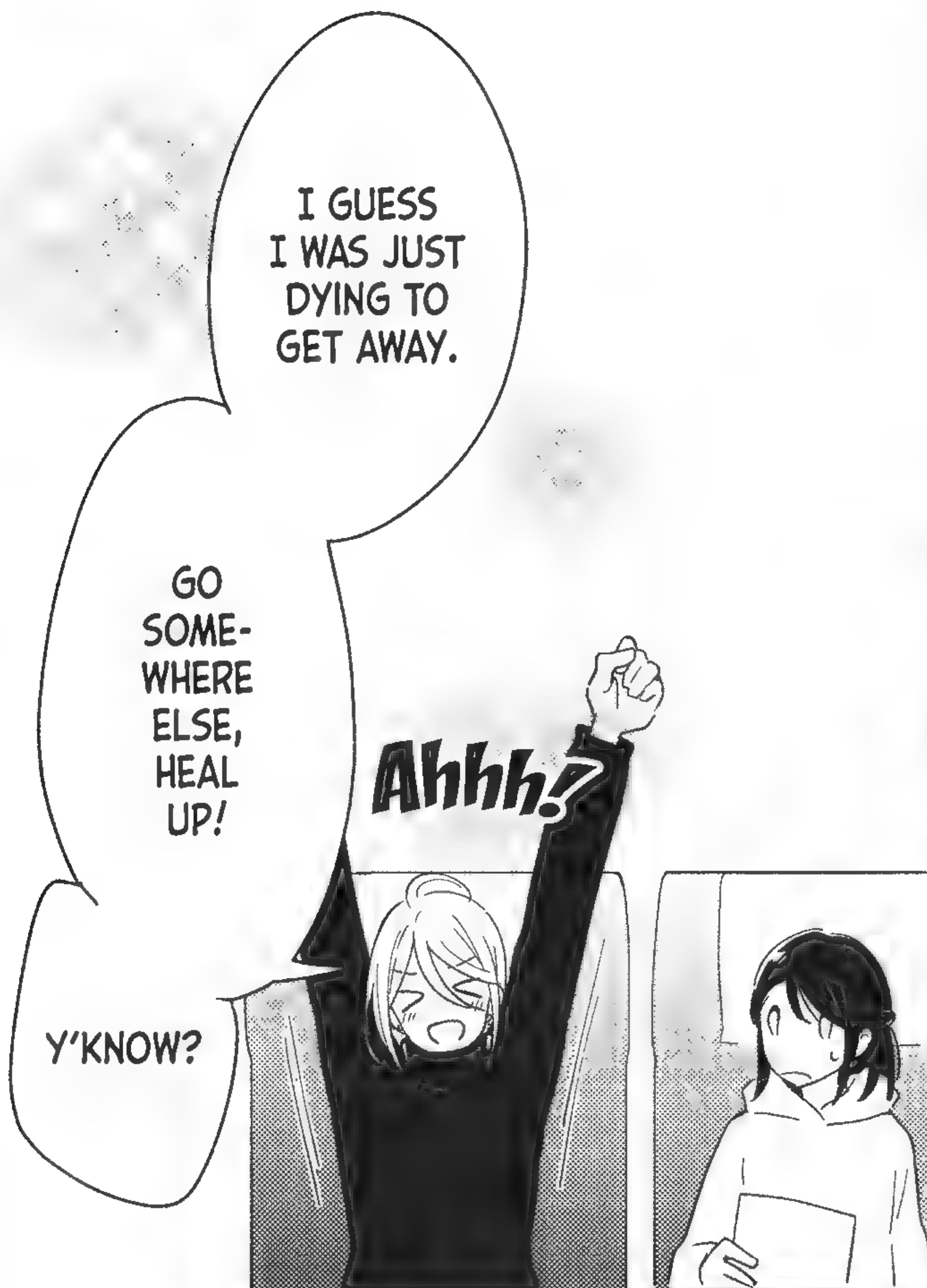


Chapter 14









I GUESS
I WAS JUST
DYING TO
GET AWAY.

GO
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE,
HEAL
UP!

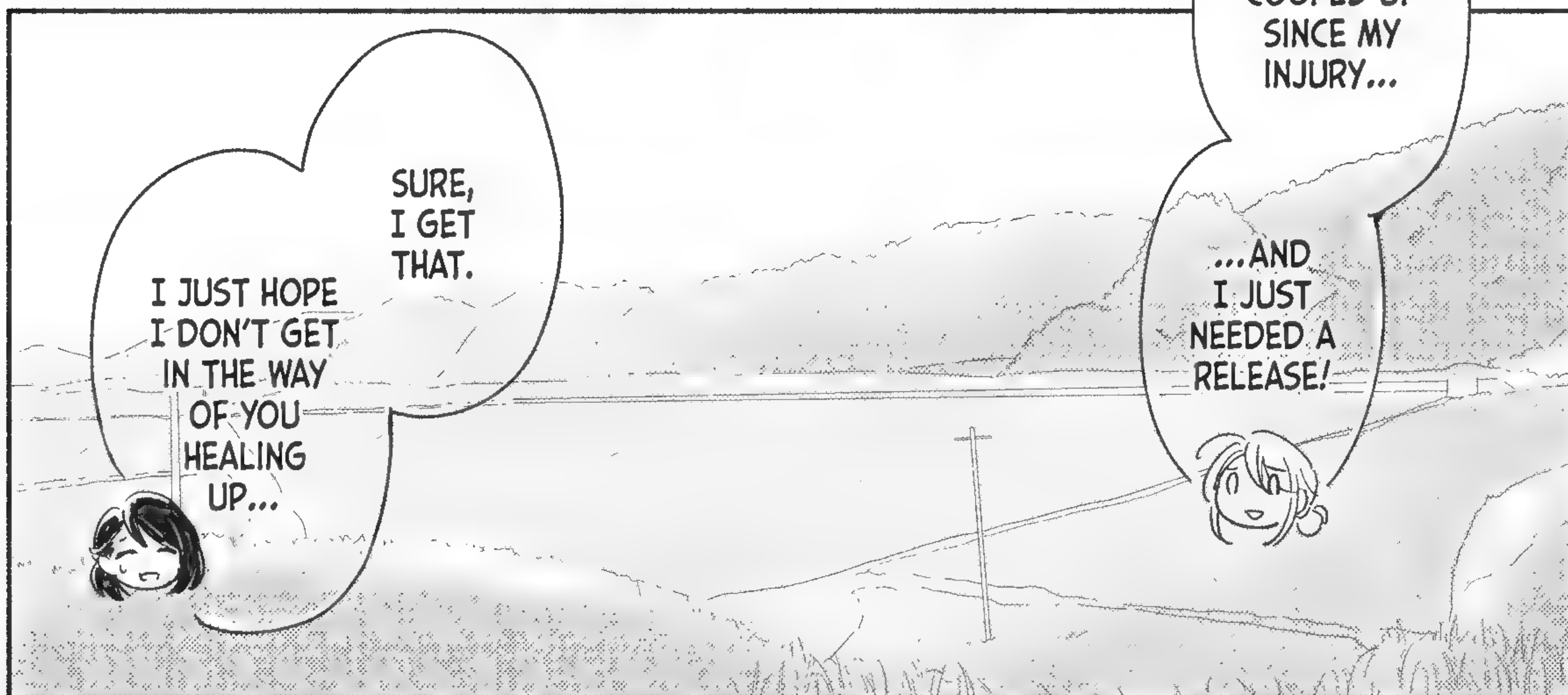
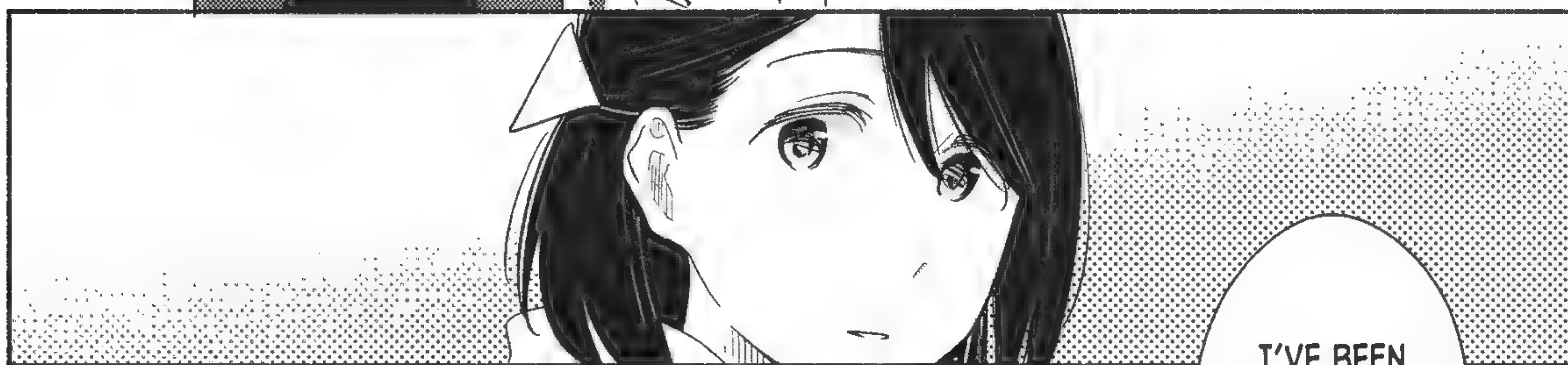
Y'KNOW?

Ahhh?



I'M NOT
SURE WE HAD
TO LEAVE IN
SUCH A
RUSH.

OH...
YEAH,
SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.



I JUST HOPE
I DON'T GET
IN THE WAY
OF YOU
HEALING
UP...

SURE,
I GET
THAT.

...AND
I JUST
NEEDED A
RELEASE!

I'VE BEEN
COOPED UP
SINCE MY
INJURY...



HUH?
DID I SAY
SOMETHING
WRONG...?



YOU'RE
SO SWEET,
I ALREADY
FEEL BETTER
JUST FROM
LOOKING
AT YOU,
UTA-CHAN!

OH,
YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT.



I JUST
DON'T
HEAR
THAT A
LOT...

NO,
YOU'RE
FINE.



THIS TRAIN
WILL SOON
ARRIVE
AT THE
TERMINAL
STATION.

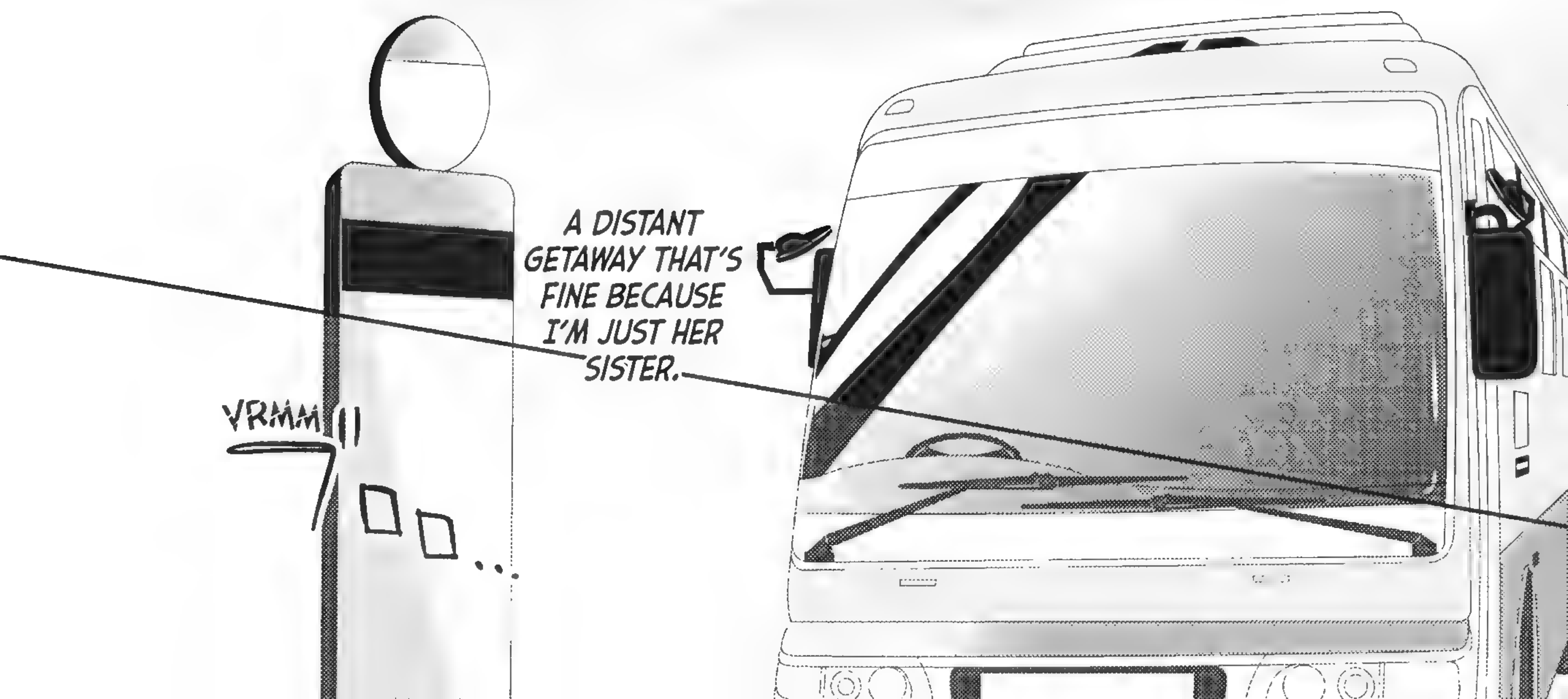


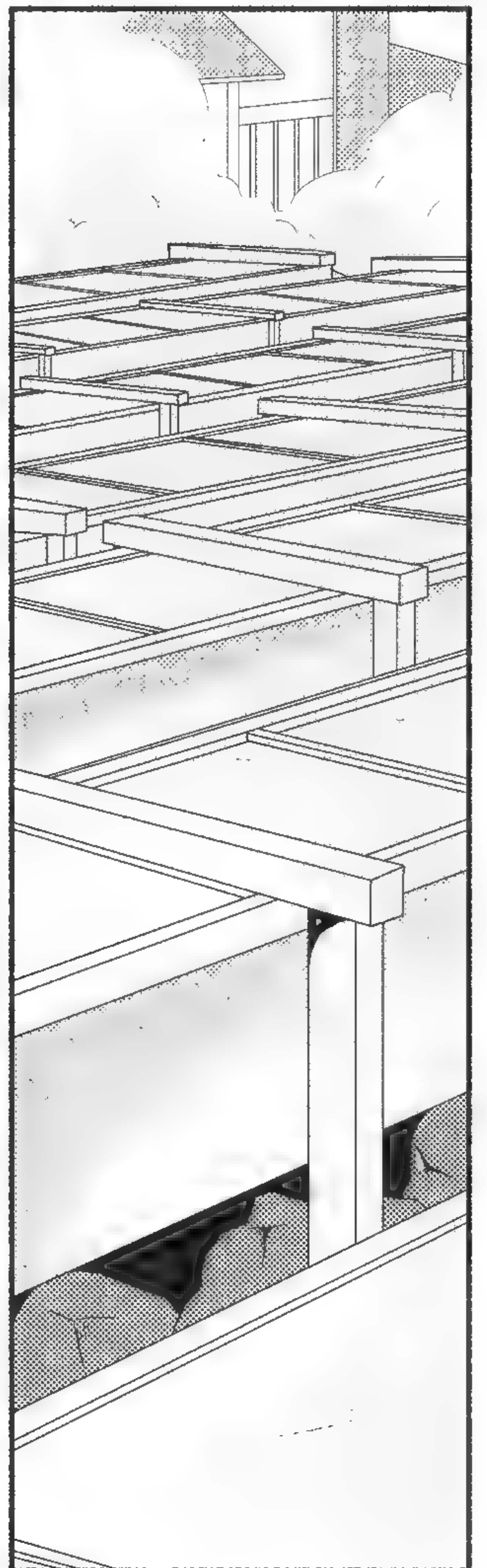
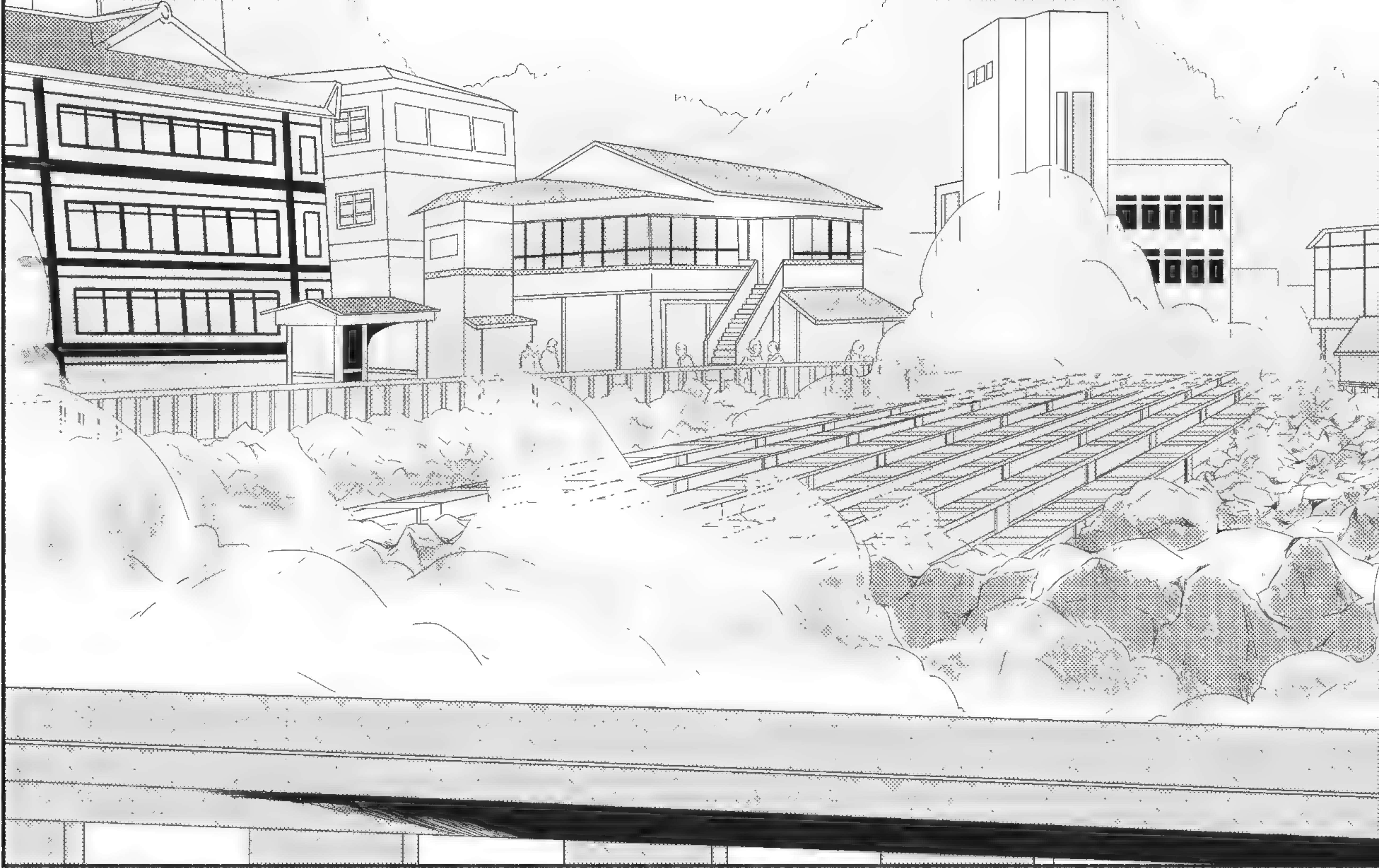
REALLY?
BUT I'VE
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
IT ABOUT
YOU!

NO
WAY!

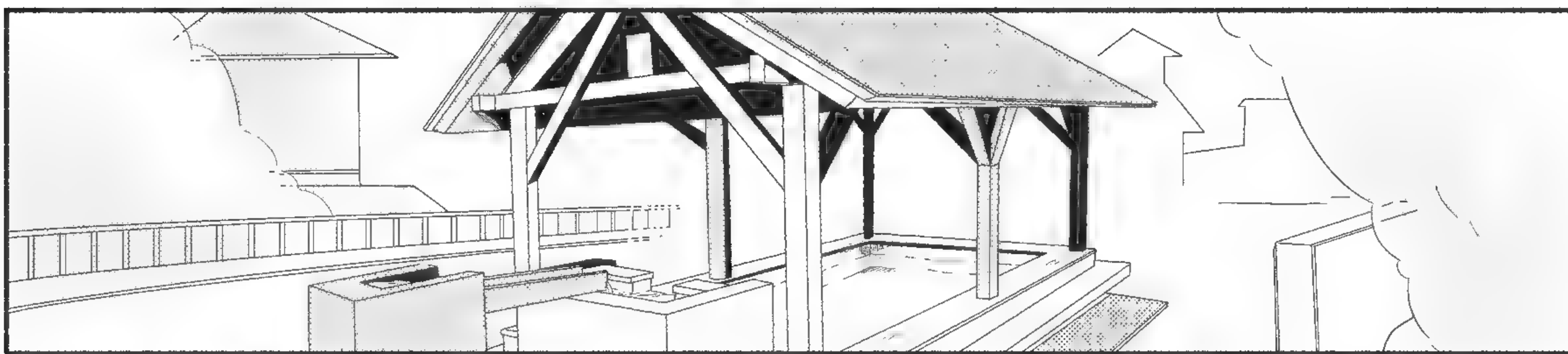
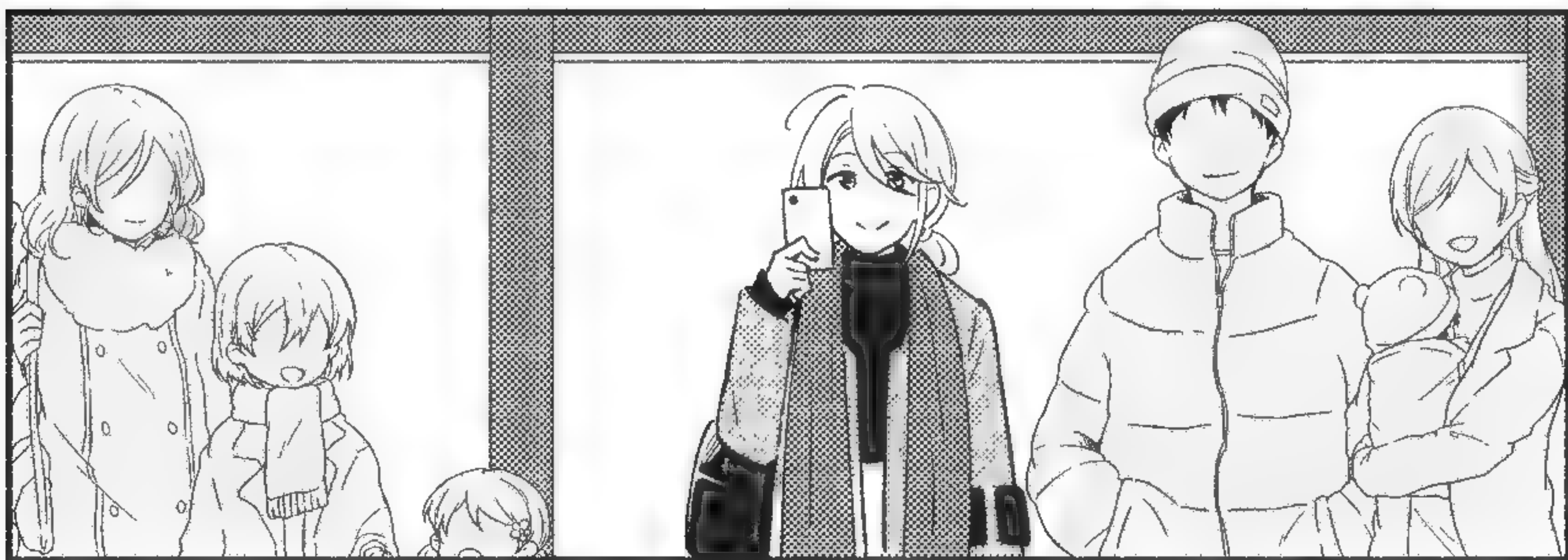
YOU'RE
LYING
FOR
SURE!

en on the r





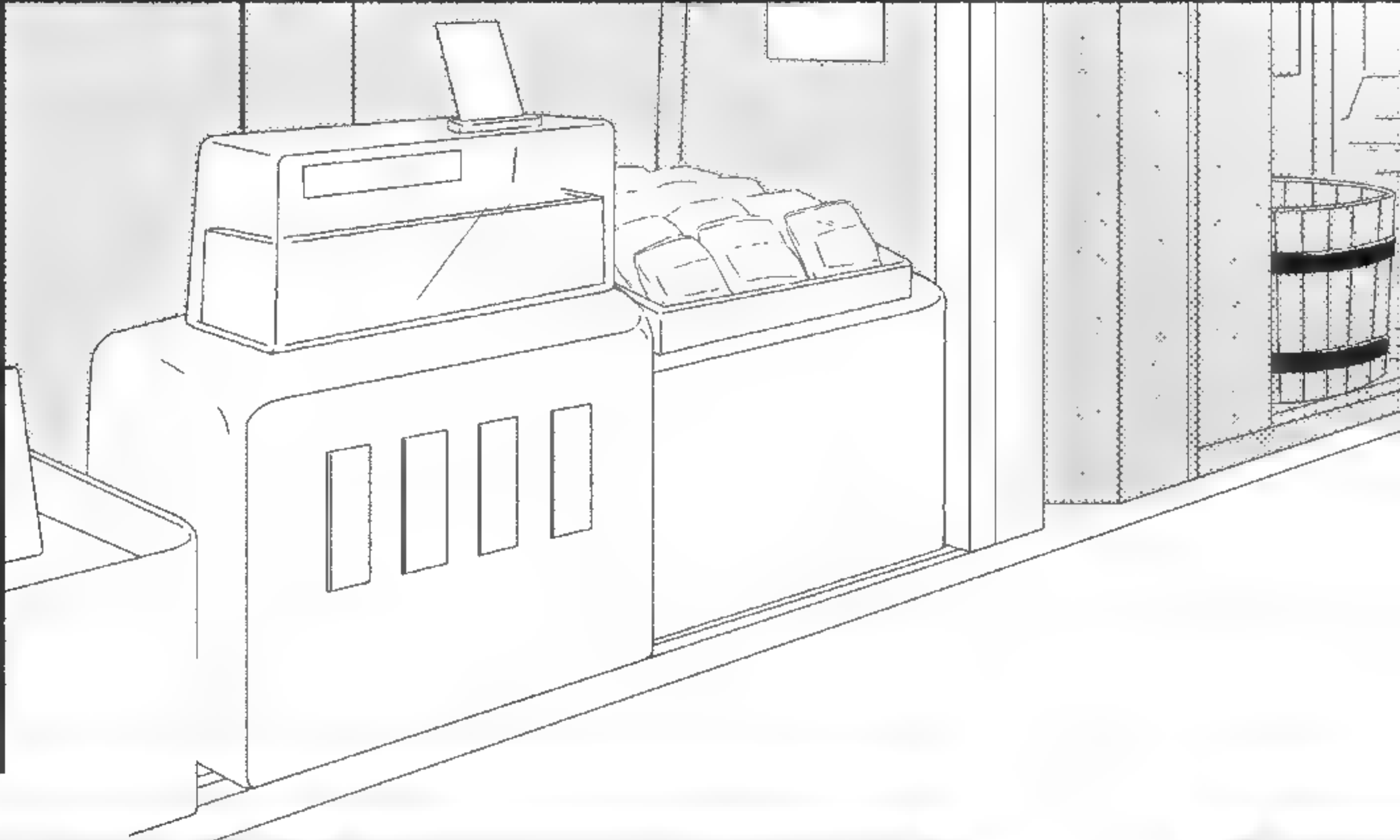
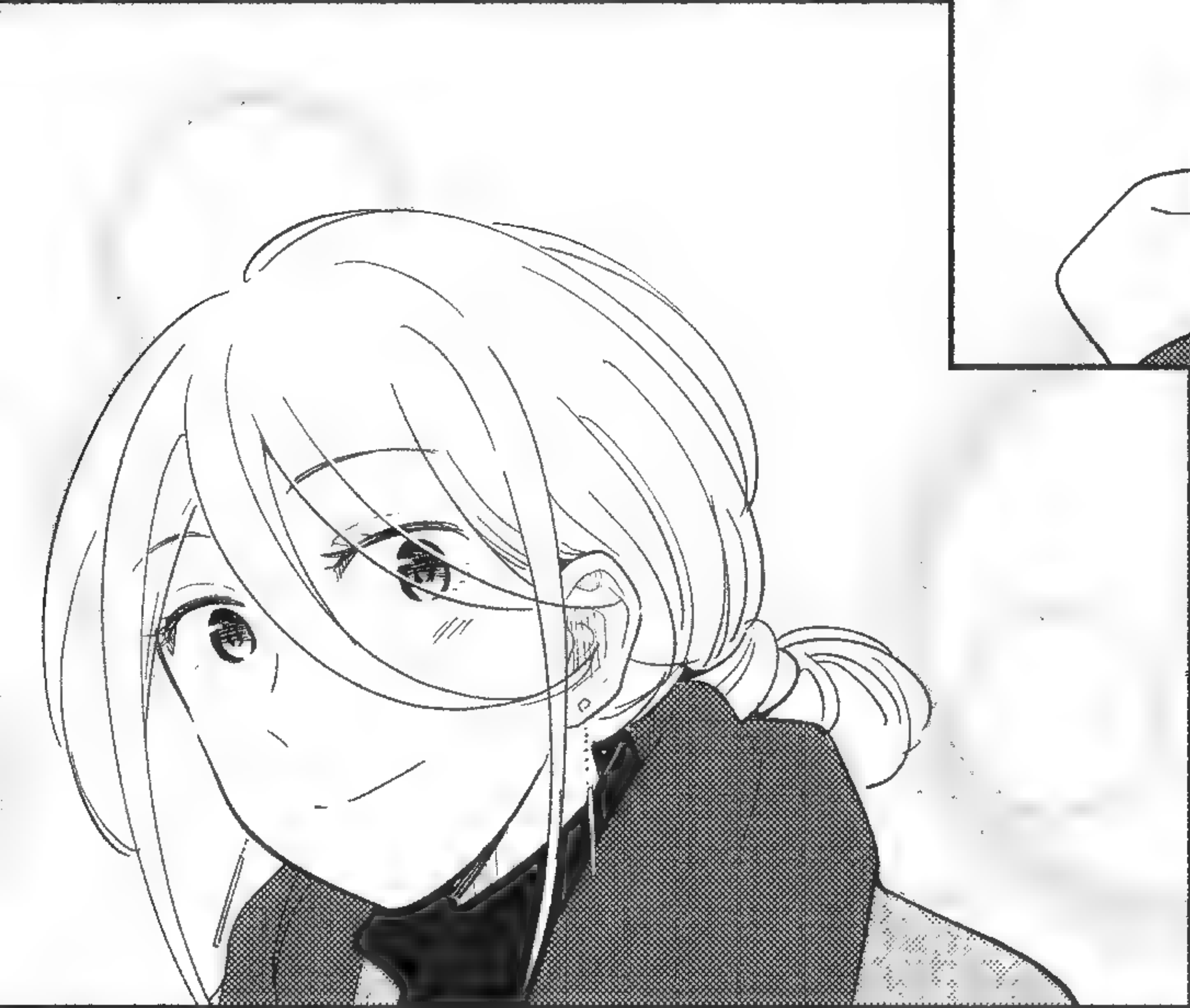
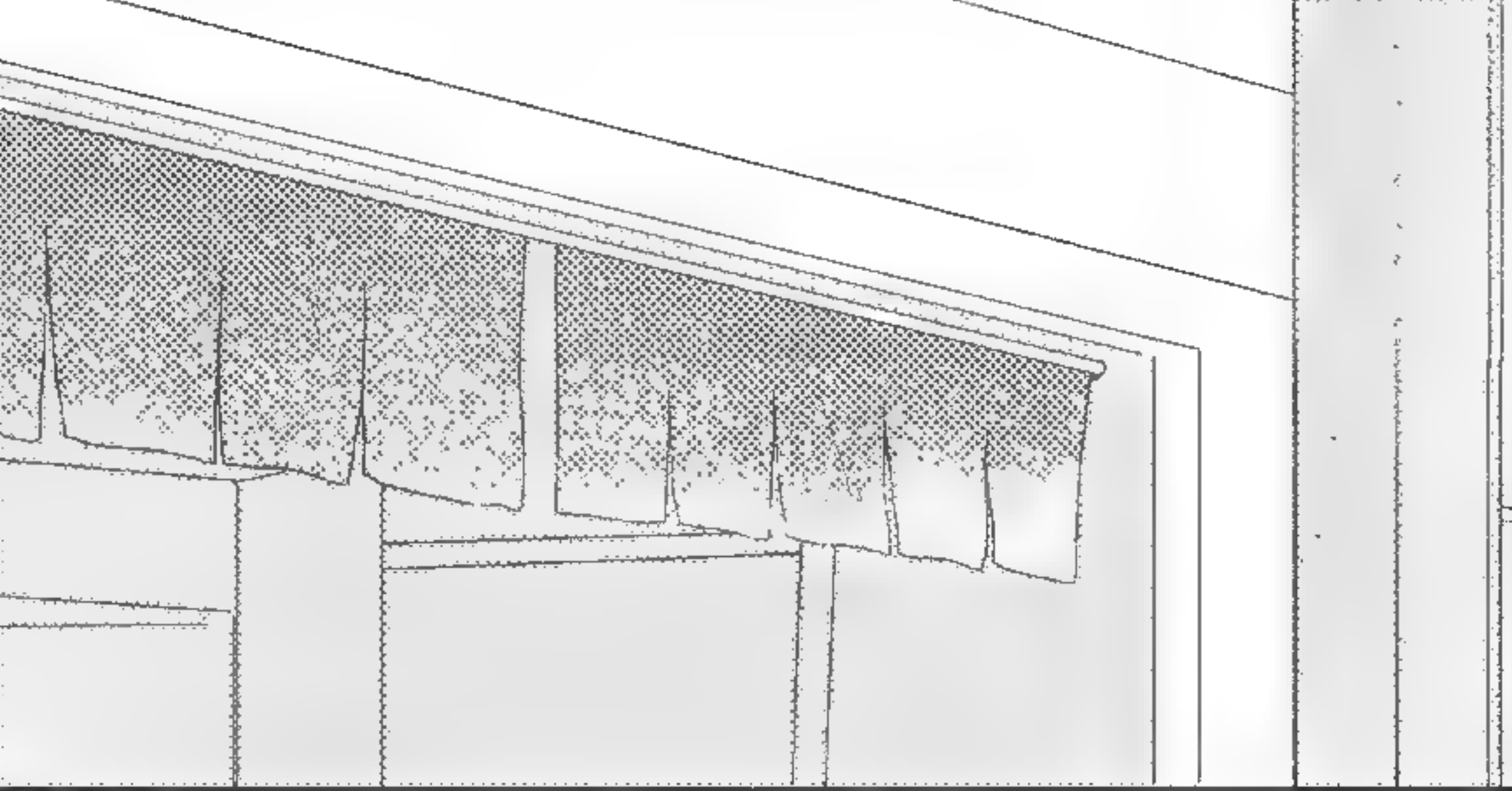
SIGN: SAI-NO-KAWARA STREET





SIGN: SOBA





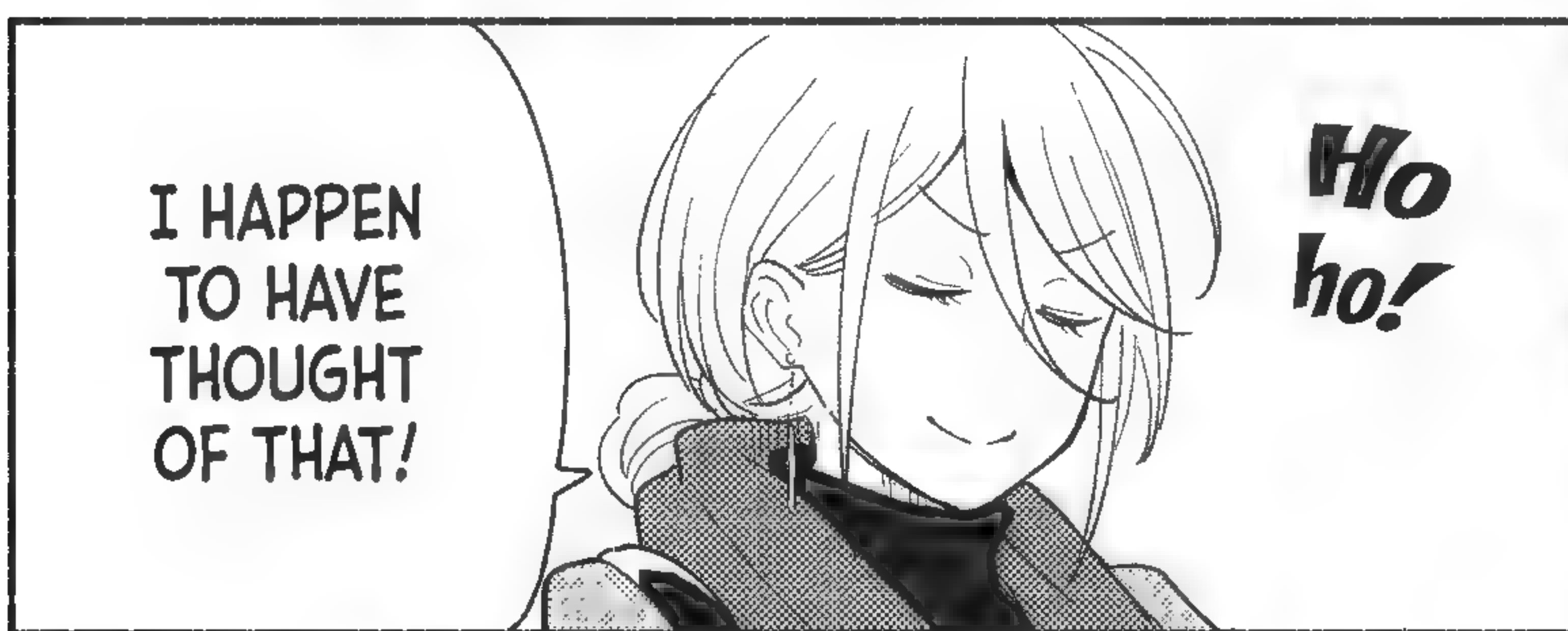


AH!
I CAN'T
WAIT FOR A
DIP IN THE
BATH!

♪

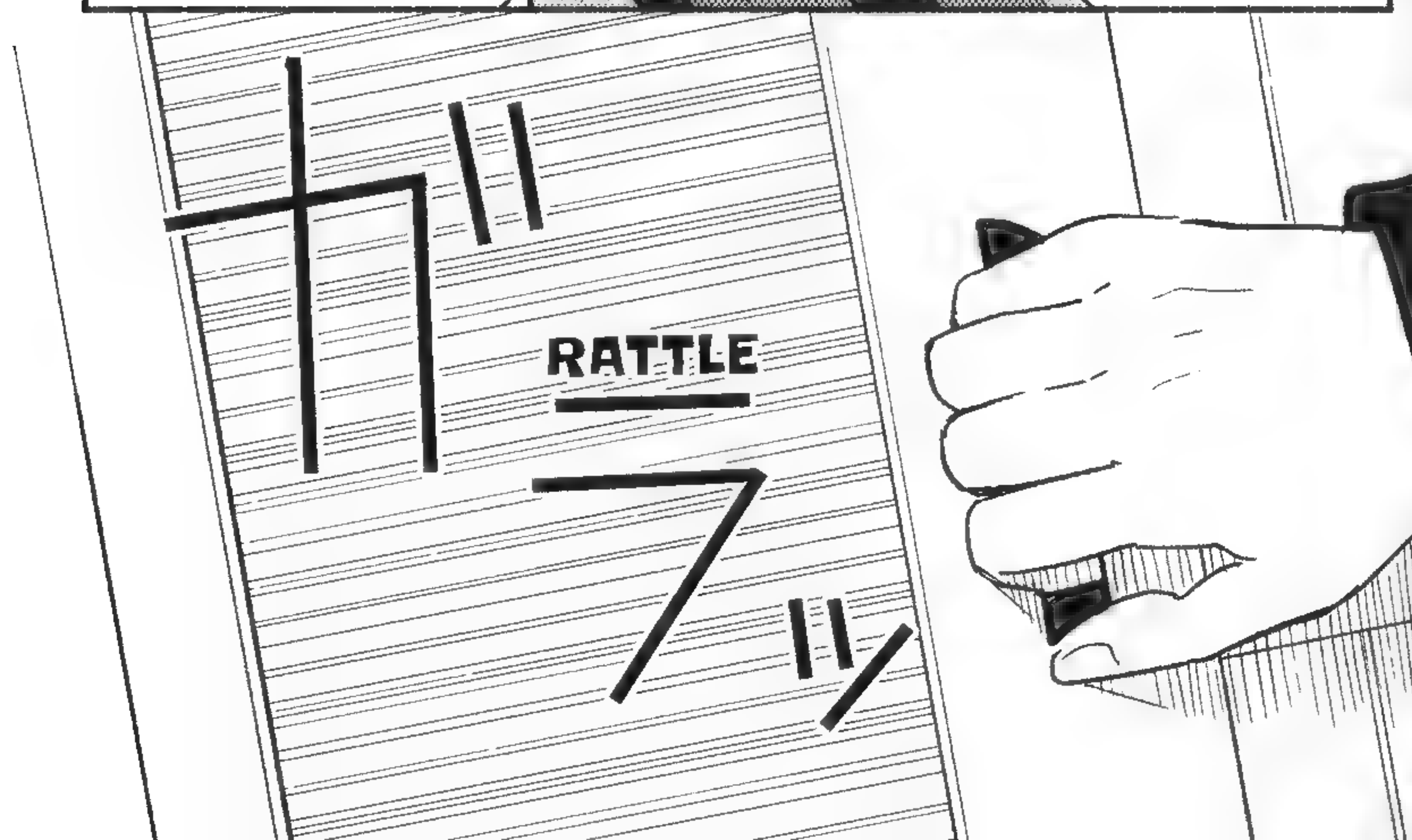


SURE YOU'RE
GONNA BE OKAY
IN A BIG PUBLIC
BATH WITH YOUR
LEG LIKE THAT?
YOU WON'T SLIP
AND FALL?

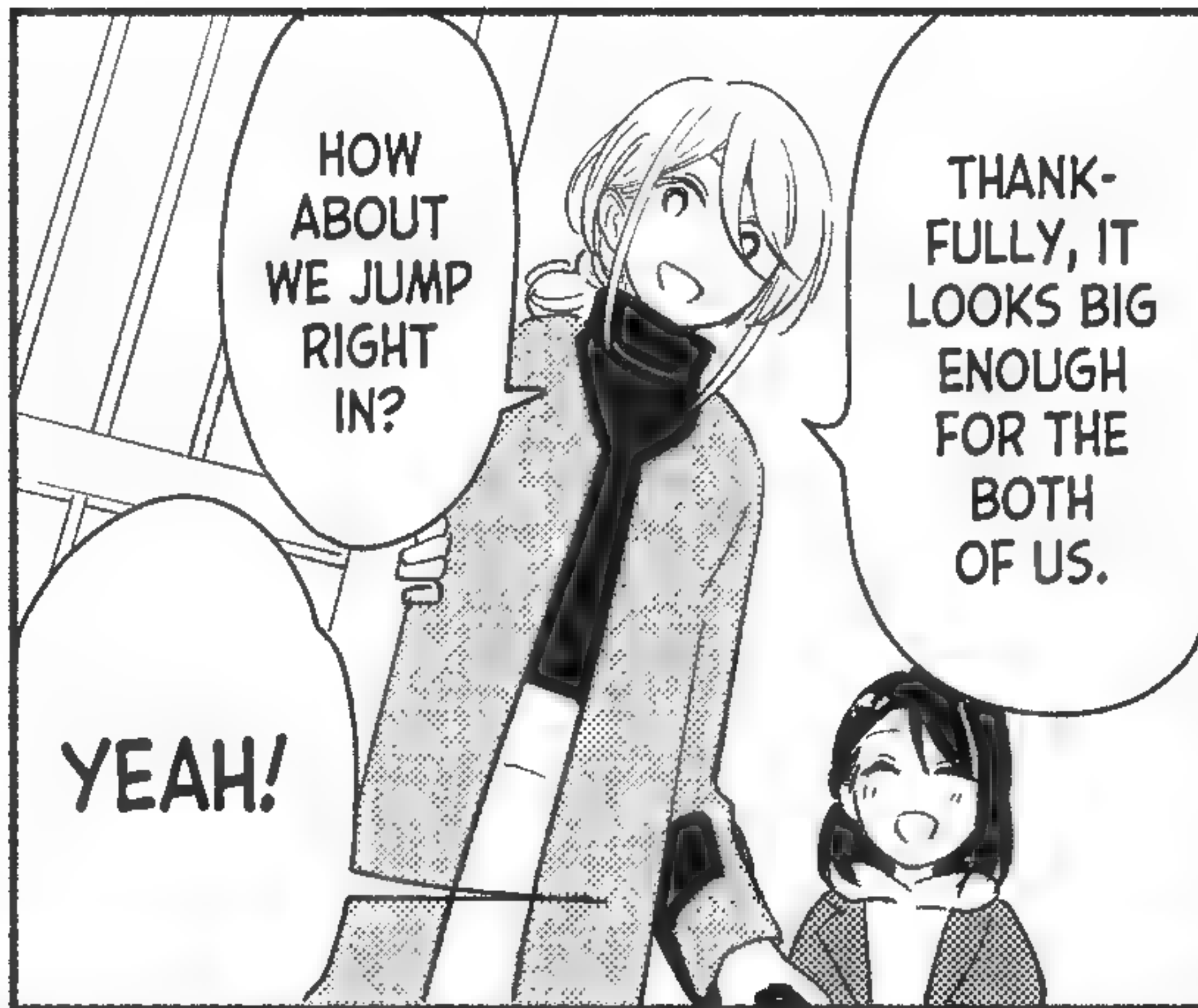


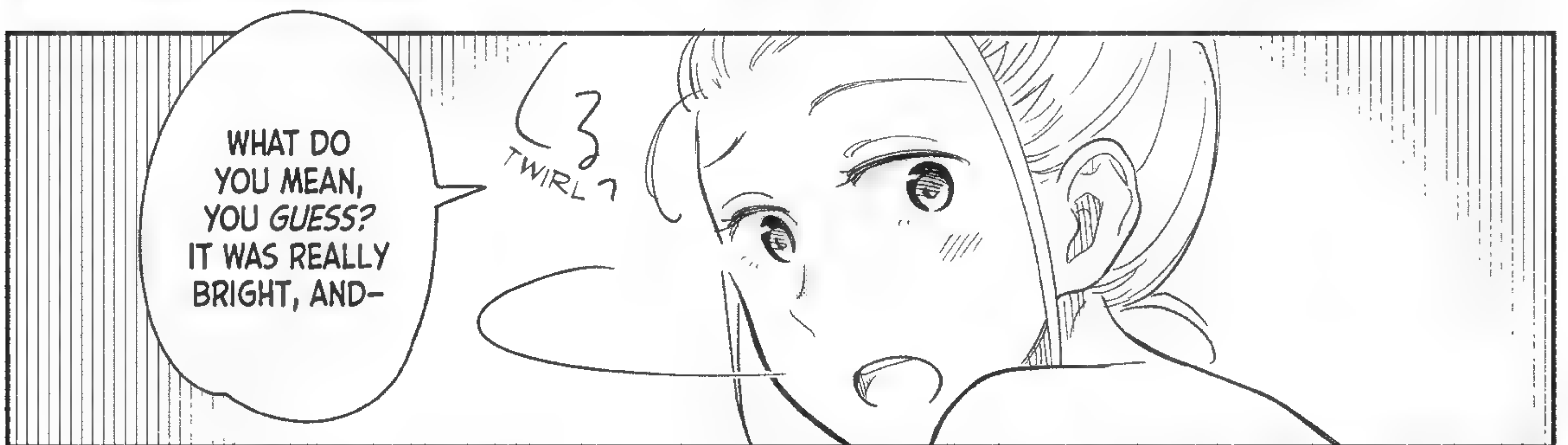
I HAPPEN
TO HAVE
THOUGHT
OF THAT!

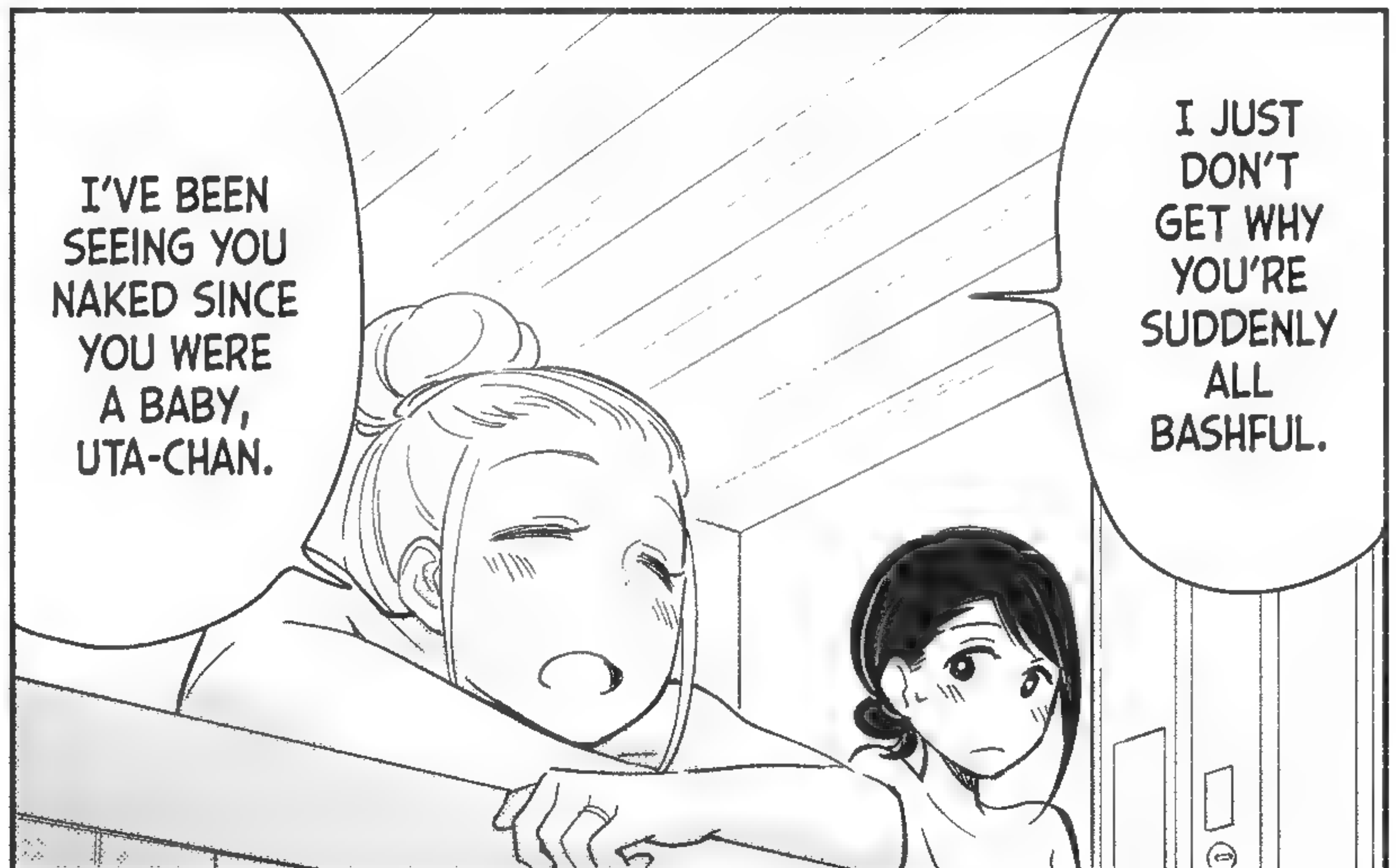
**Ho
ho!**



RATTLE









GUH?

IT HASN'T
CHANGED IN
ALL THESE
YEARS, HAS
IT? LET
ME HAVE
A LOOK!

WHAT
FOR?!



Though
you never
act *outie*
much...

AND
I THINK
YOU'RE
AN OUTIE,
YEAH?

GEEZ,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU RE-
MEMBER
THAT...



AS I
RECALL,
YOU HAVE A
THREE-STAR-
SHAPED
BIRTHMARK
ON YOUR
RIGHT BUTT
CHEEK, AM
I RIGHT?

BA-
DUMP

#



SPLOOSH

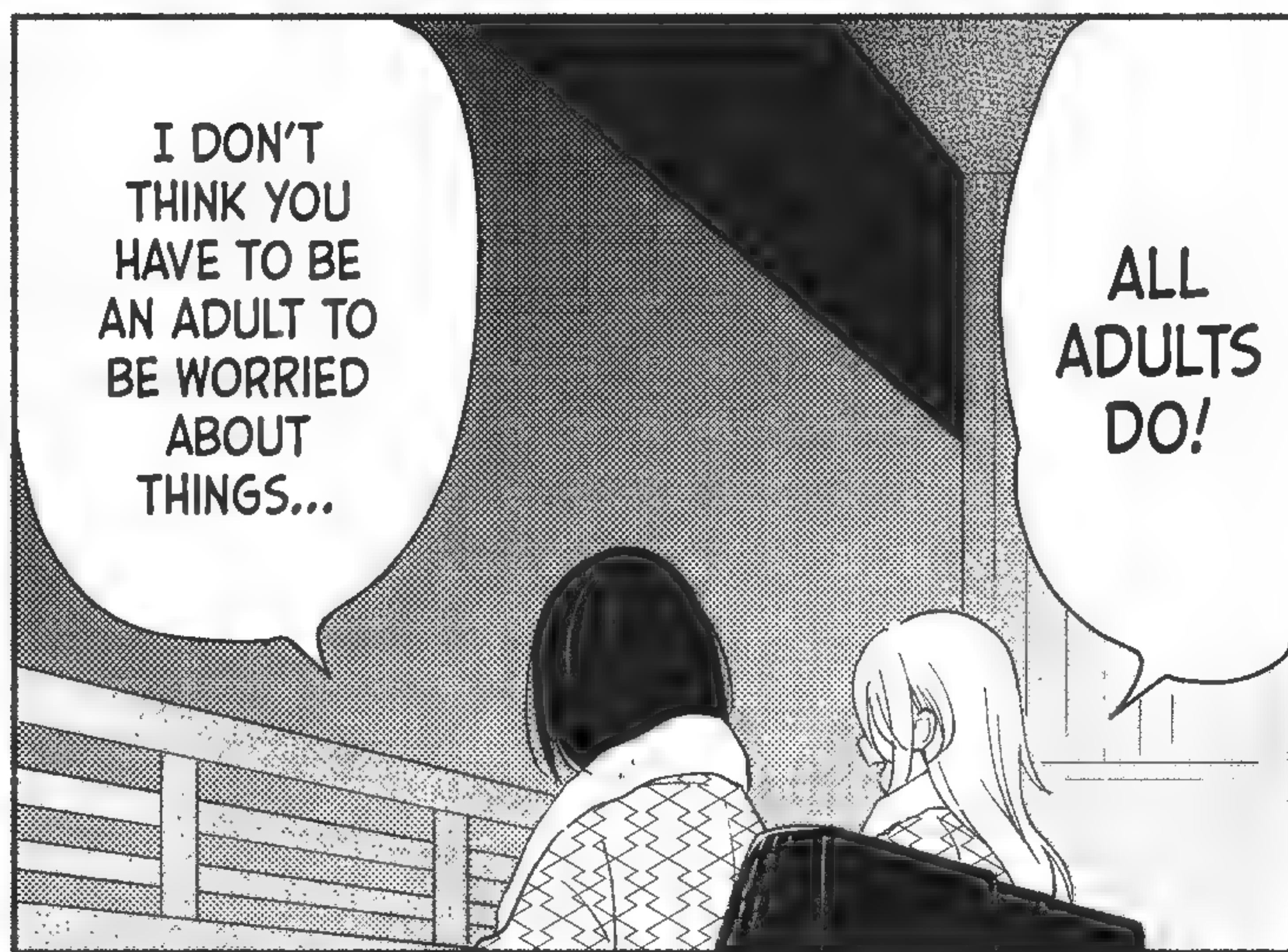
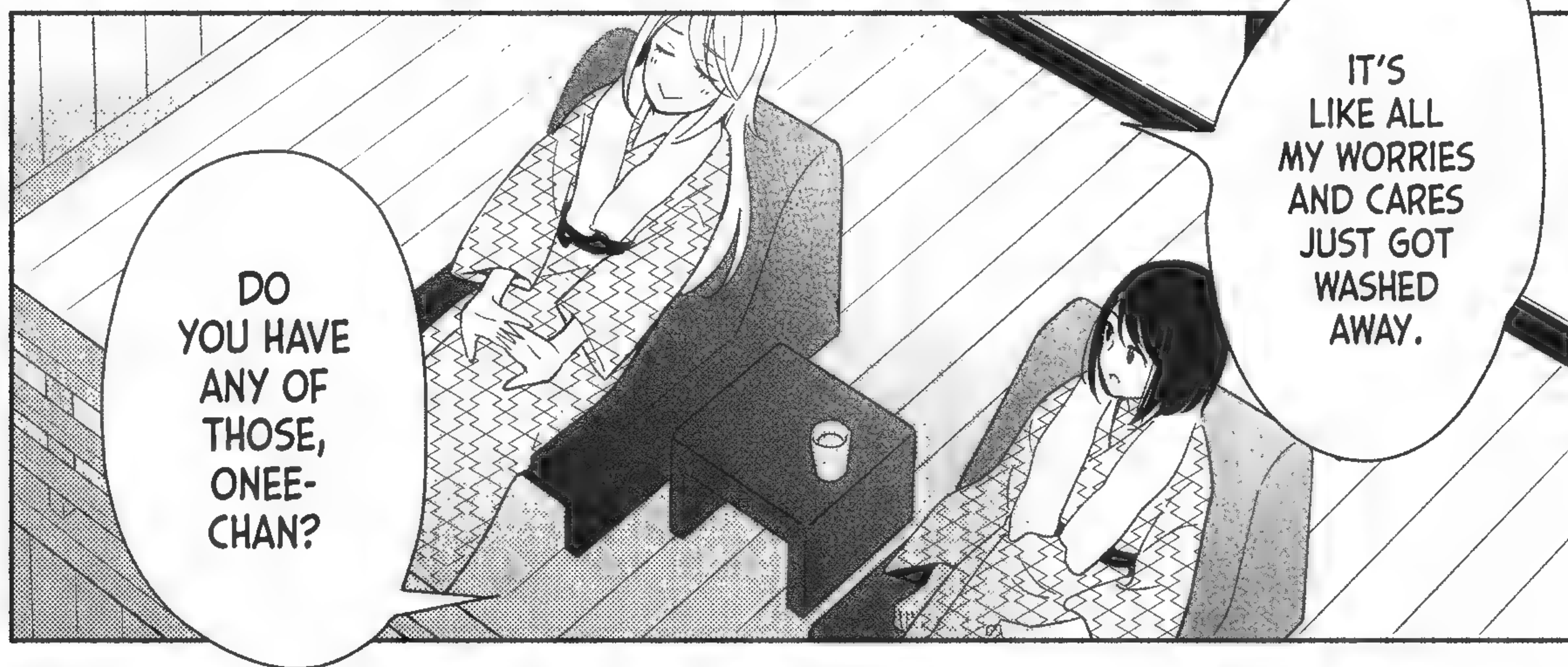
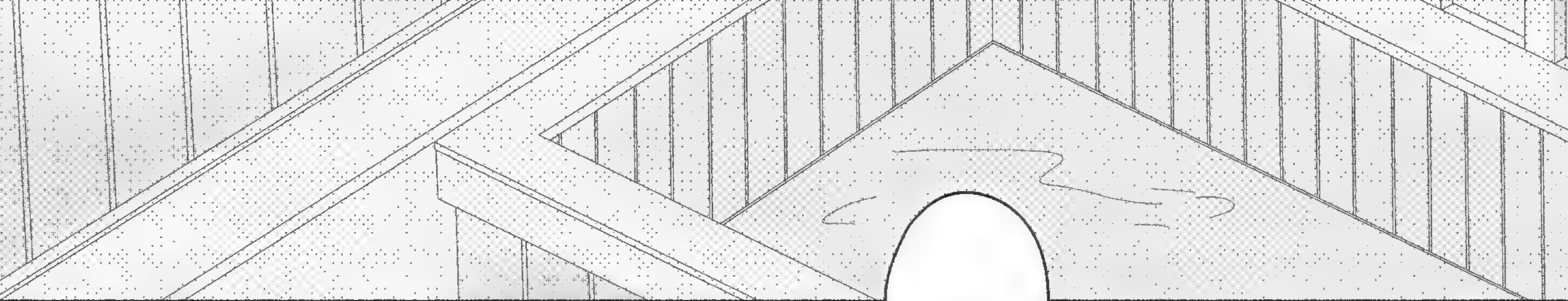
#

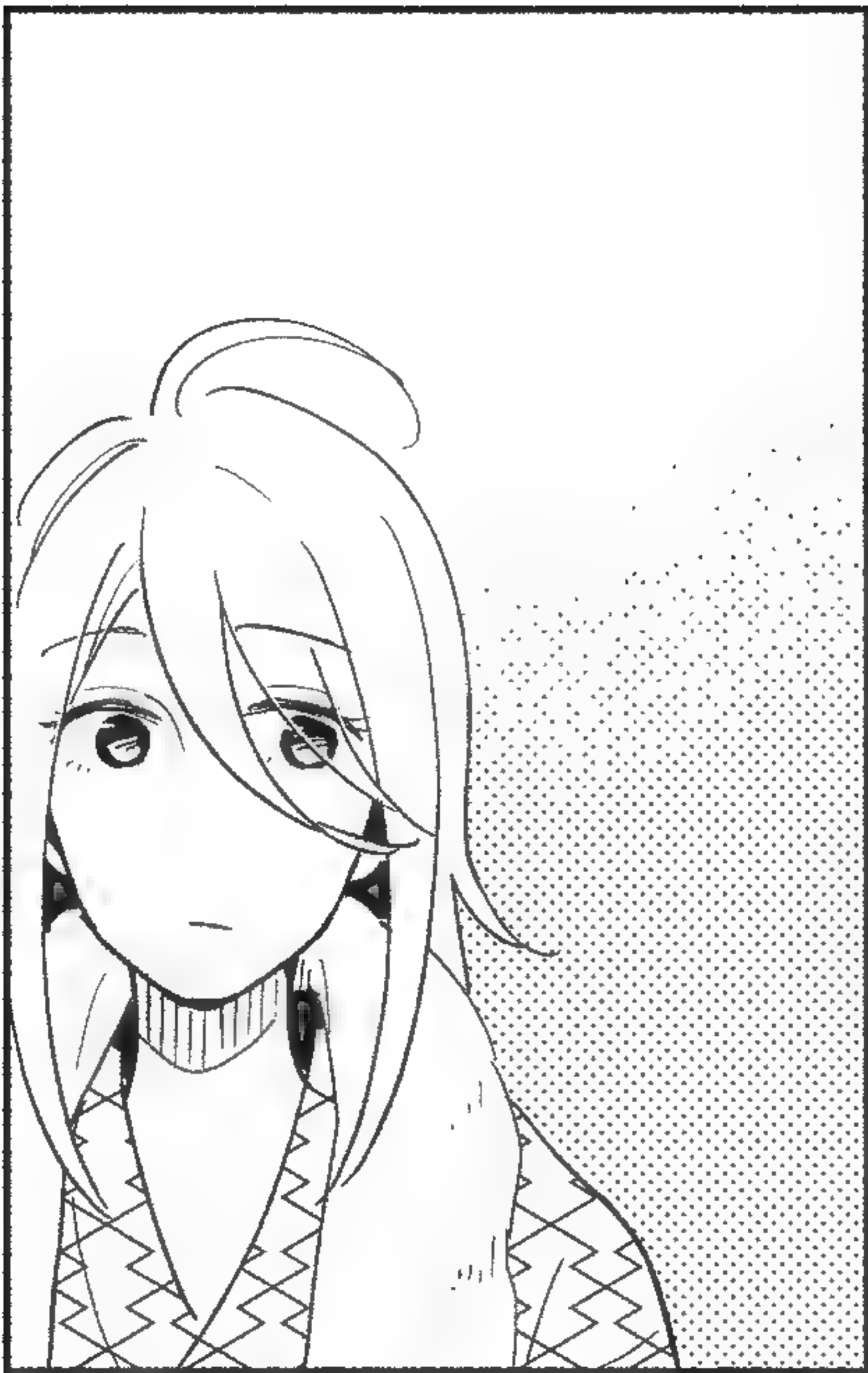
HEY-

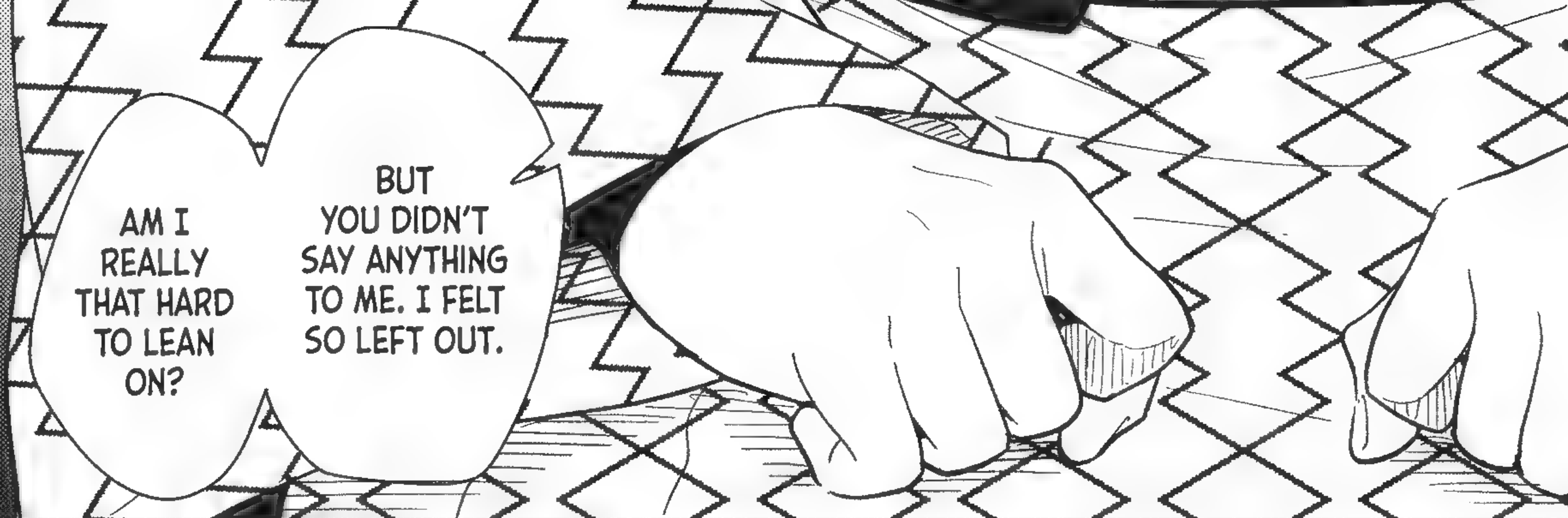
STOP, THAT
TICKLES...!



OH! LOOK,
ONEE-CHAN,
ANOTHER
SHOOTING
STAR! QUICK,
MAKE A
WISH!







AM I
REALLY
THAT HARD
TO LEAN
ON?

BUT
YOU DIDN'T
SAY ANYTHING
TO ME. I FELT
SO LEFT OUT.



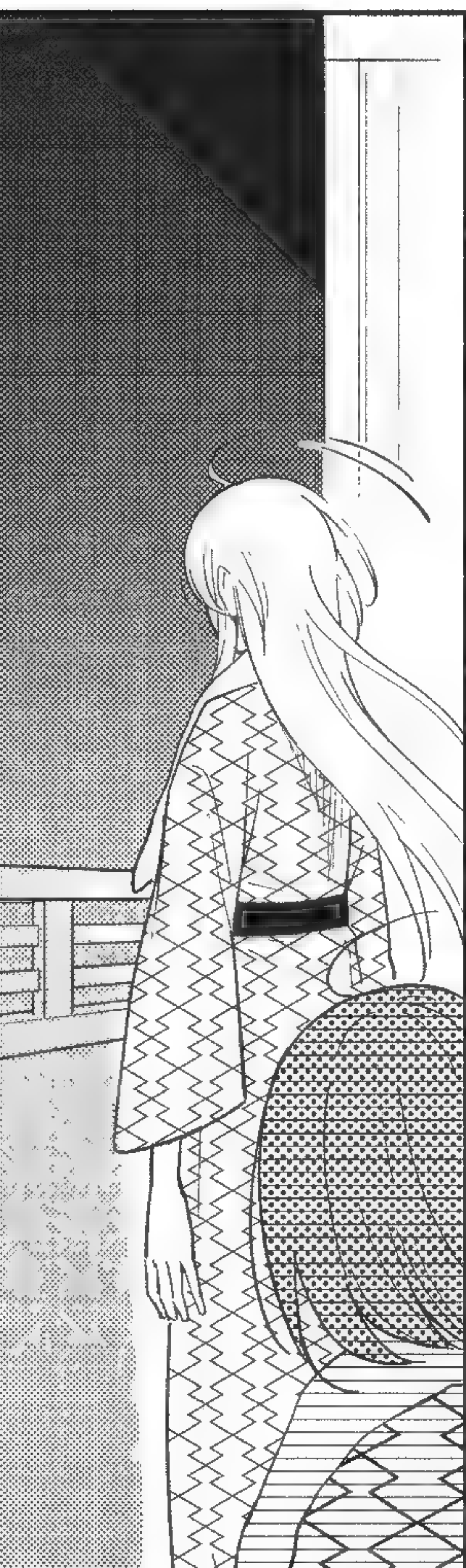
AND
YOU
WOULDN'T
TELL ME
THE REAL
REASON
WHY.

YOU
WERE
CRYING
AT THE
HOSPITAL.

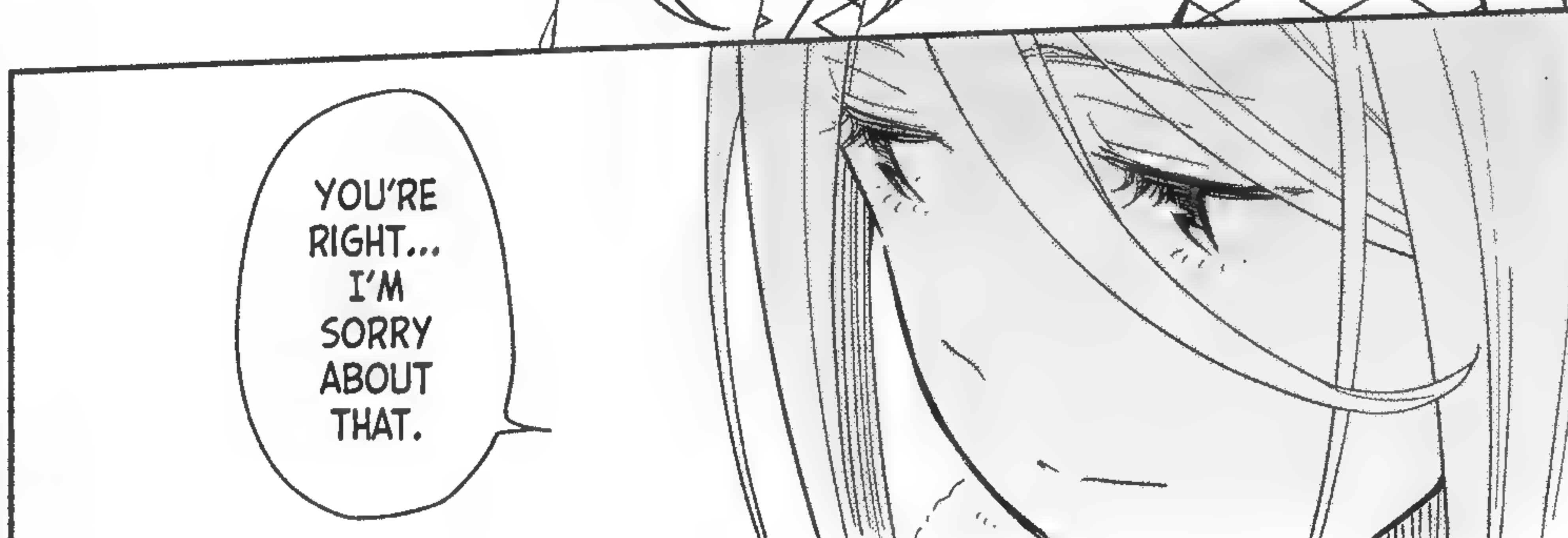


I
GUESS
THAT
MAKES
TWO
OF US,
ONEE-
CHAN.

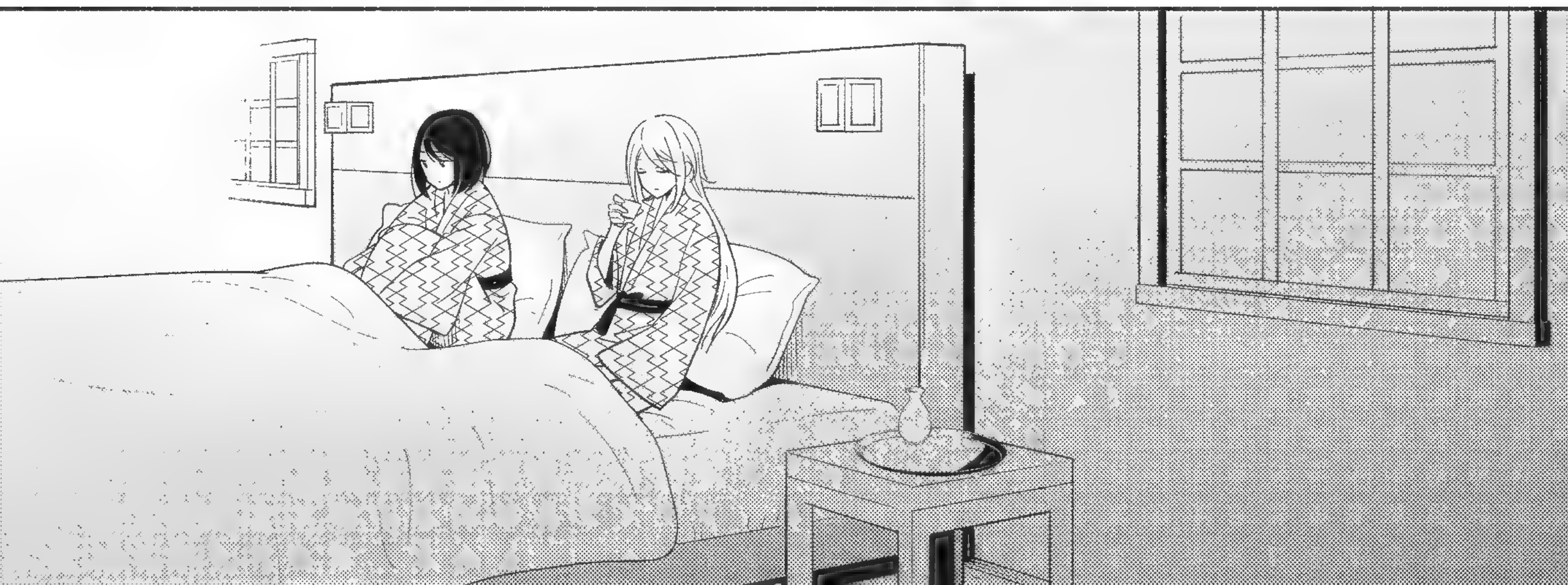
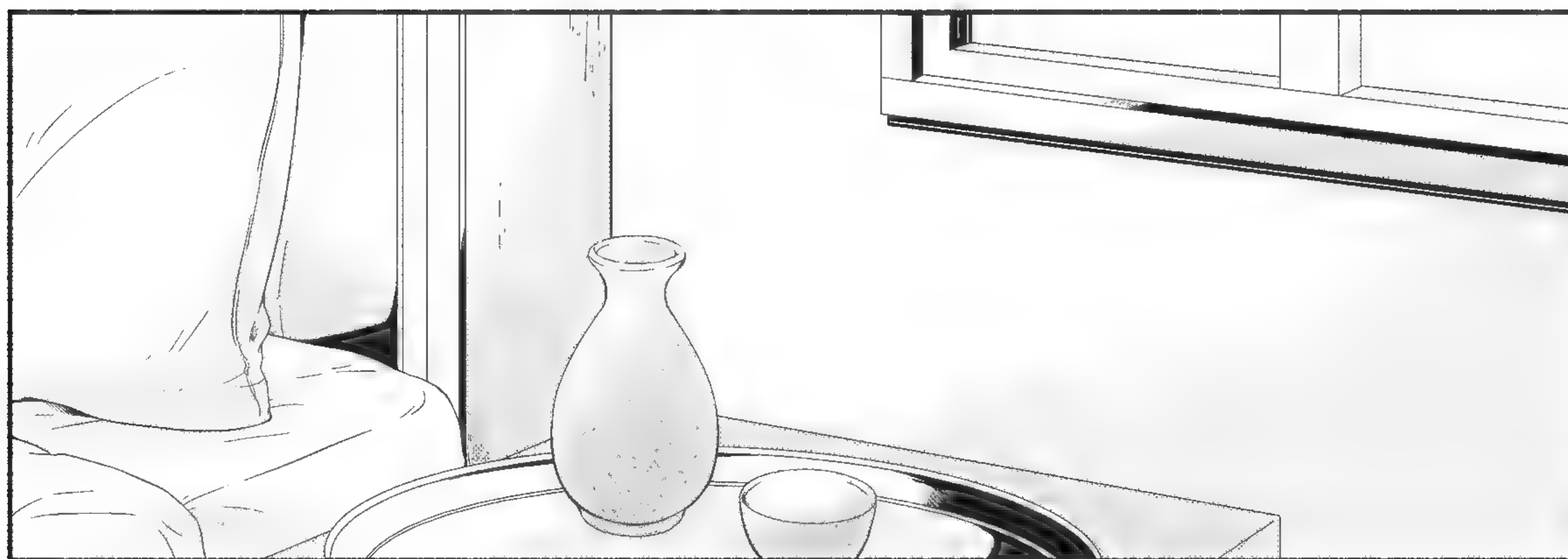
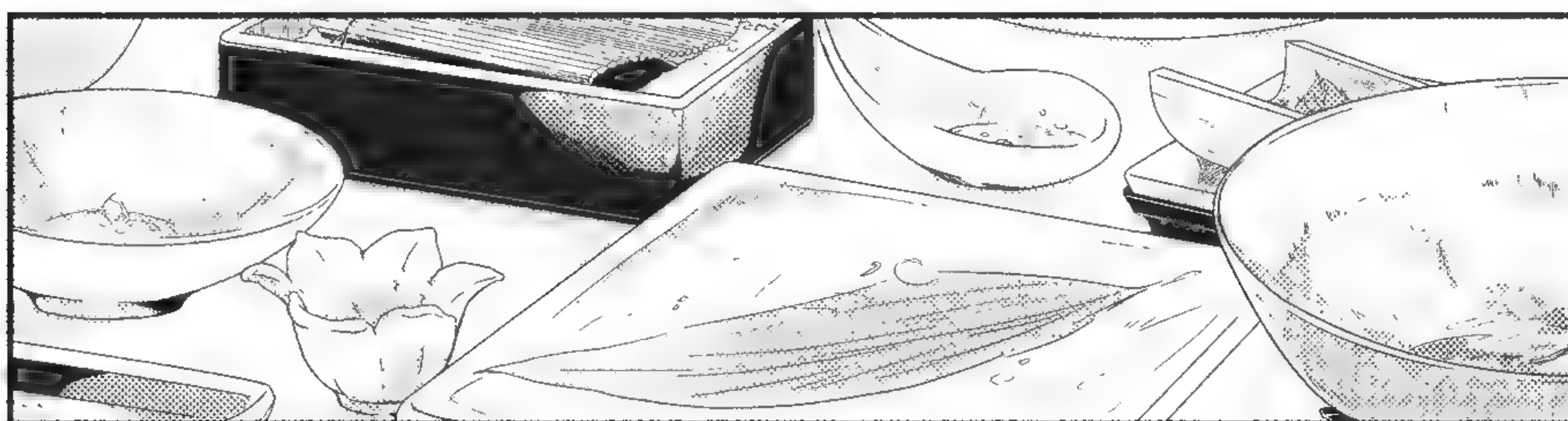
YEAH?

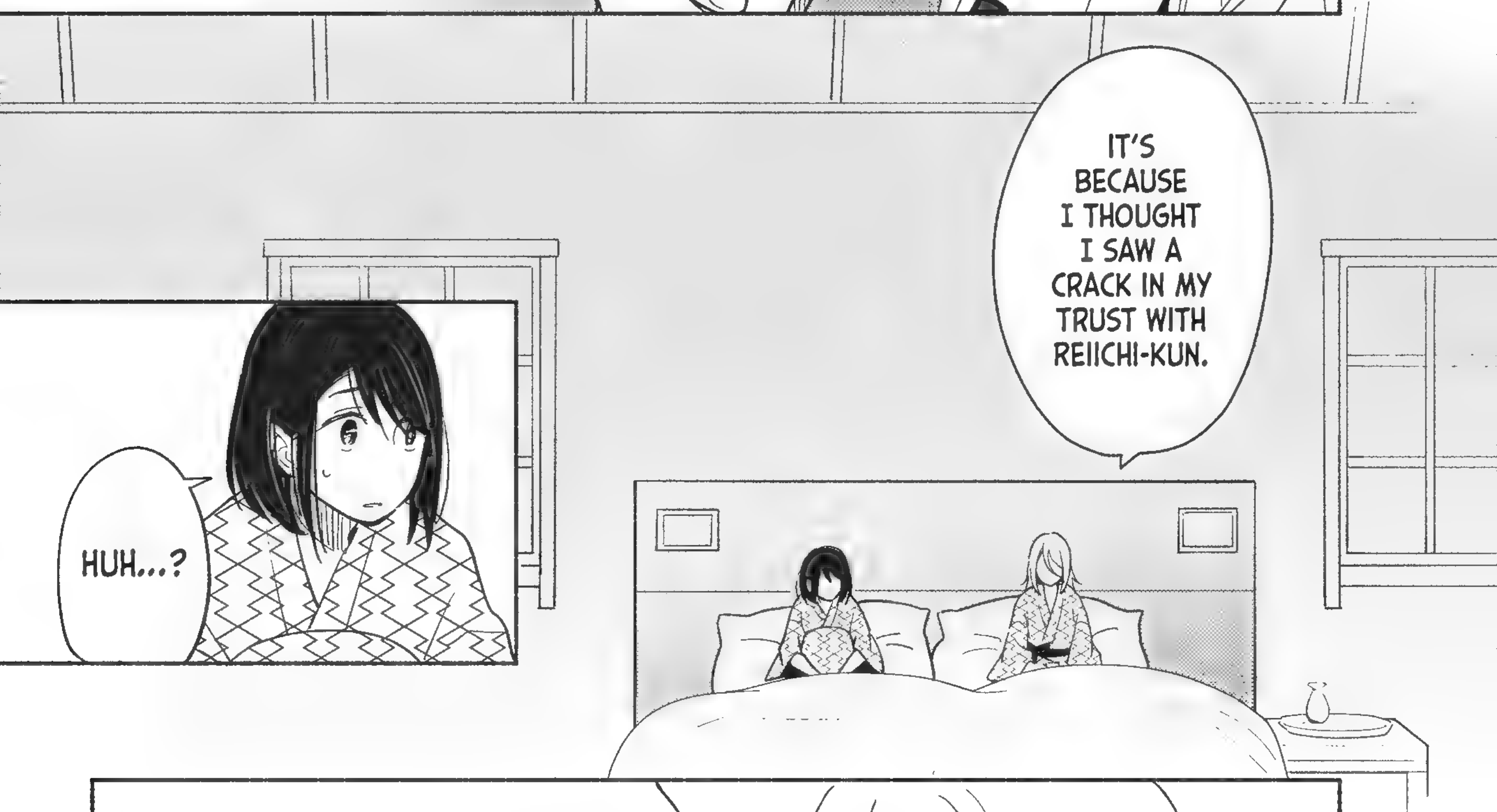
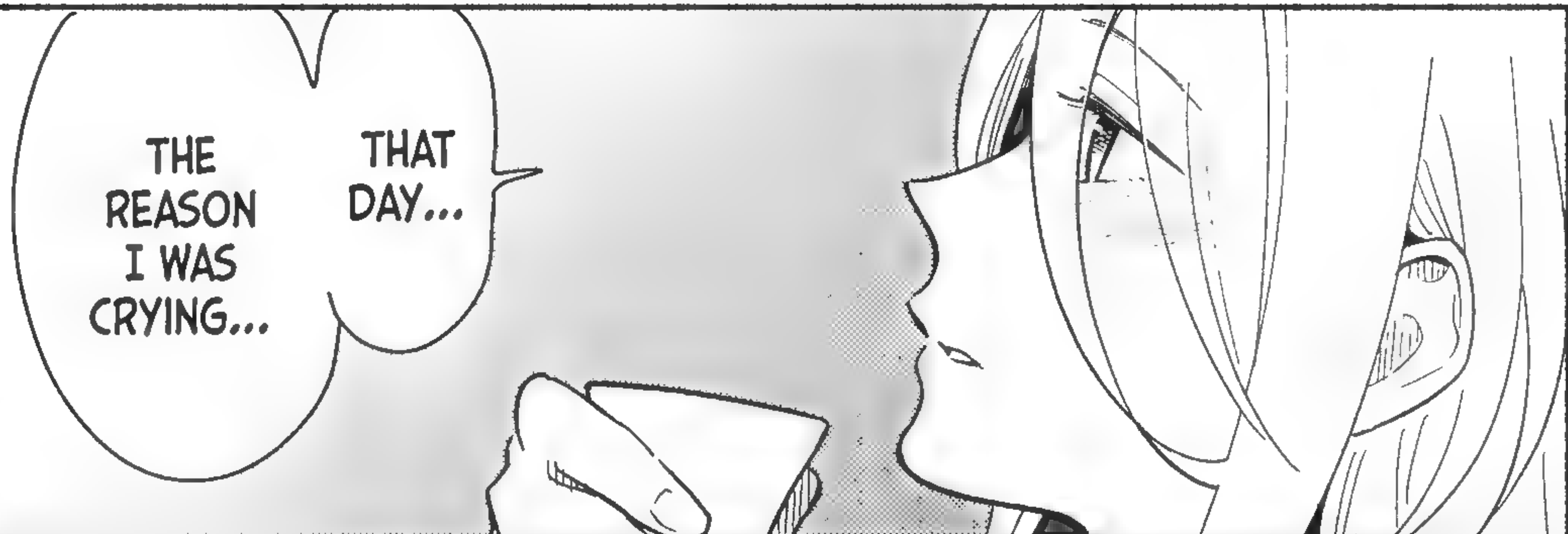


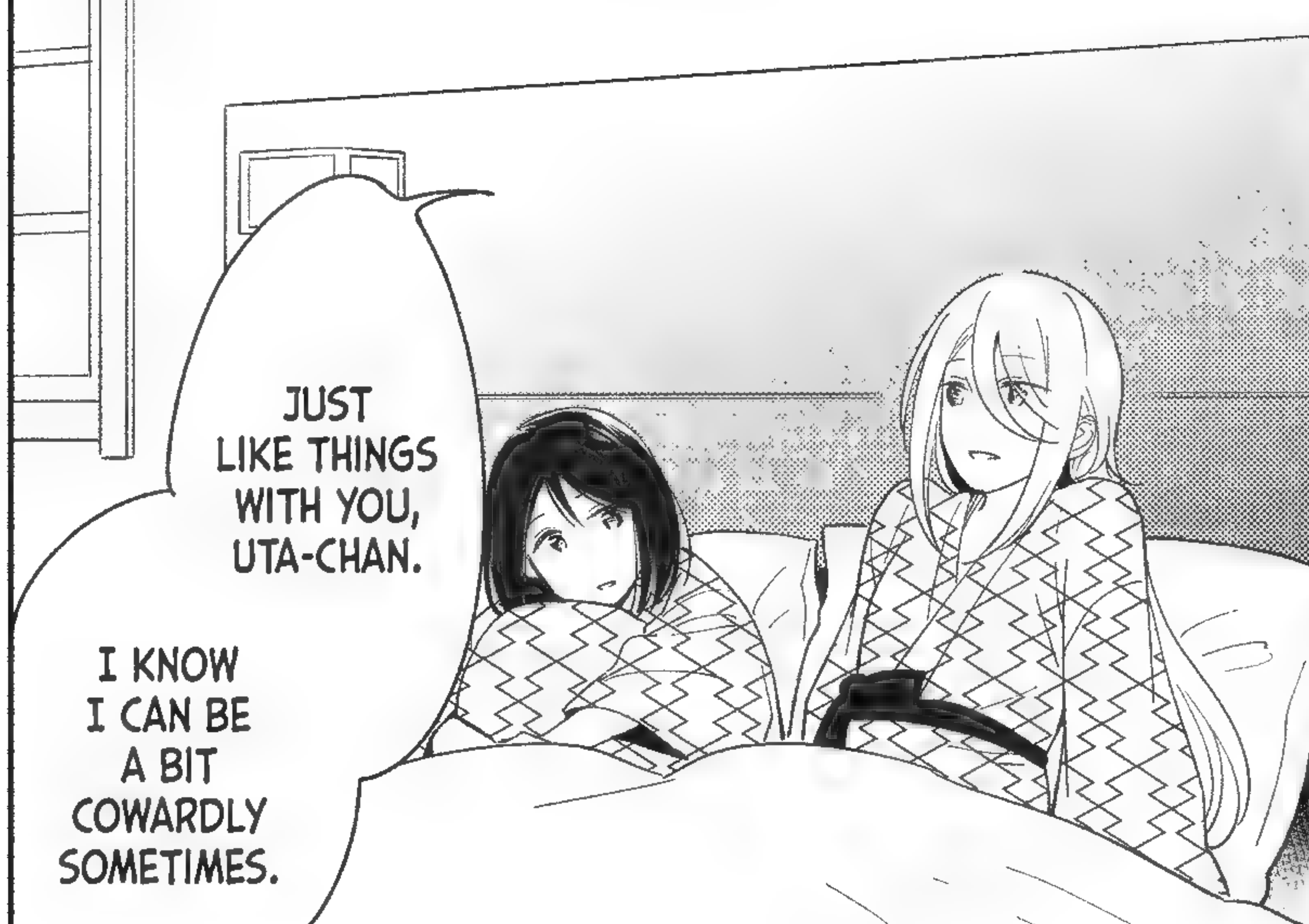
SO
MAYBE
YOU'RE
NOT ONE
TO TALK.



YOU'RE
RIGHT...
I'M
SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.







JUST
LIKE THINGS
WITH YOU,
UTA-CHAN.

I KNOW
I CAN BE
A BIT
COWARDLY
SOMETIMES.



BUT IT'S
MY OWN
DOING.



...I HESITATE.
I THINK, IF
I GO FURTHER,
I'LL JUST HURT
THEM.

WHEN
I FEEL LIKE
SOMEONE
DOESN'T WANT
ME TO GET
TOO CLOSE
TO THEM...



I'M THE
ONE WHO'S
PUT THAT
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
MYSELF AND
OTHERS.



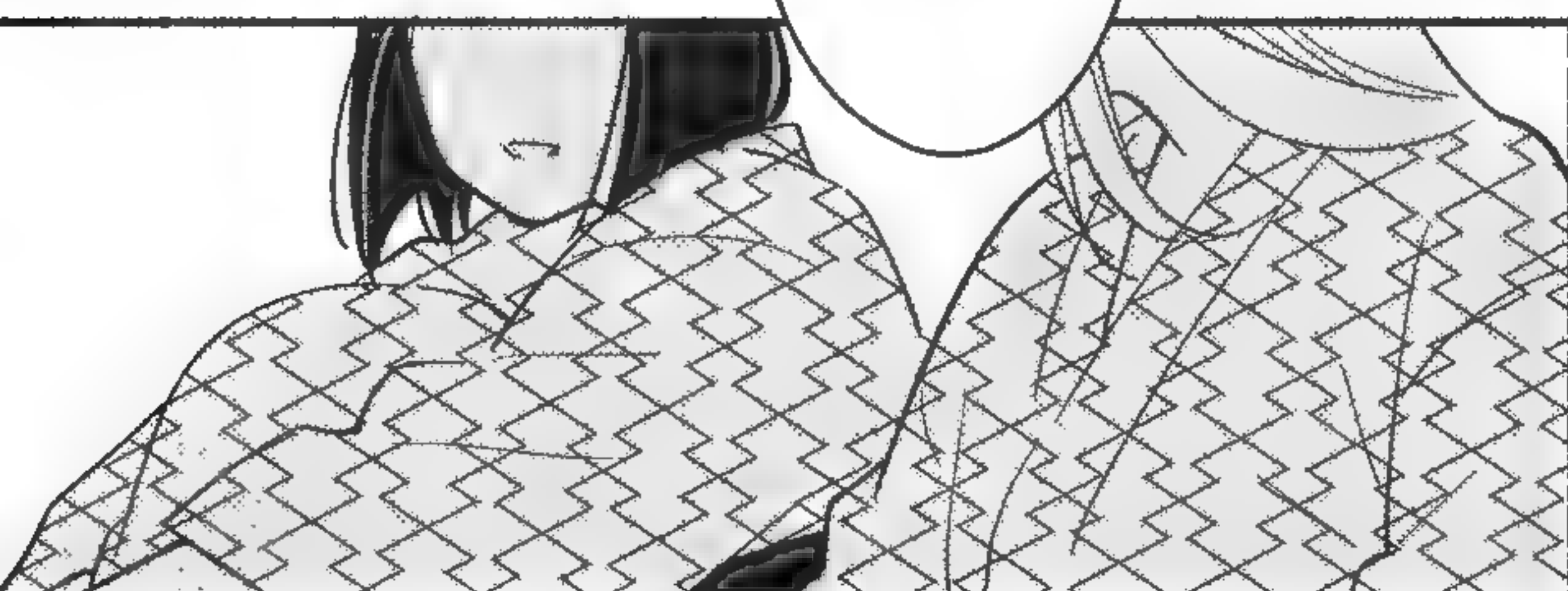
SOUNDS
NOBLE, LIKE
I'M DOING IT
FOR THEM, BUT
IT'S REALLY
JUST TO
PROTECT
MYSELF.

BECAUSE I'M
TERRIFIED OF
GETTING CLOSE,
AND THEN BEING
REJECTED. OF
BEING DISLIKED
EVEN A
LITTLE BIT.



THAT'S
THE KIND OF
RELATIONSHIP
I HAVE WITH
MY OWN
RELATIVES.

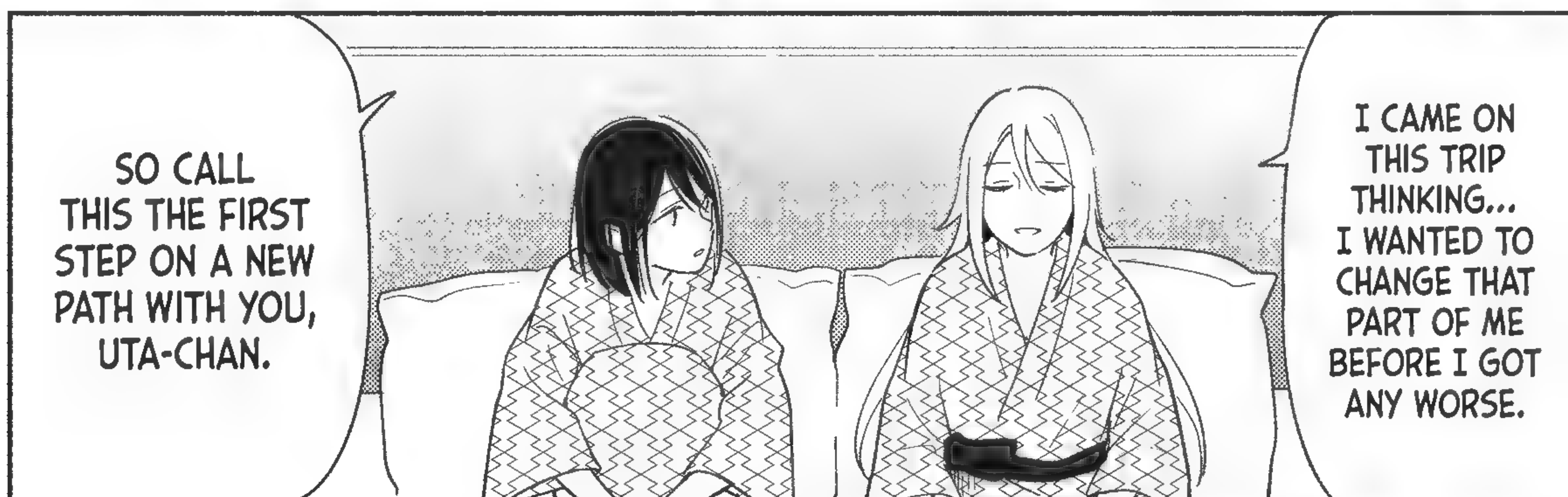
A
PRETTY
SAD LIFE,
HUH?



SO
I END UP
NOT REALLY
KNOWING
EVEN
THE ONES
I LOVE
MOST.

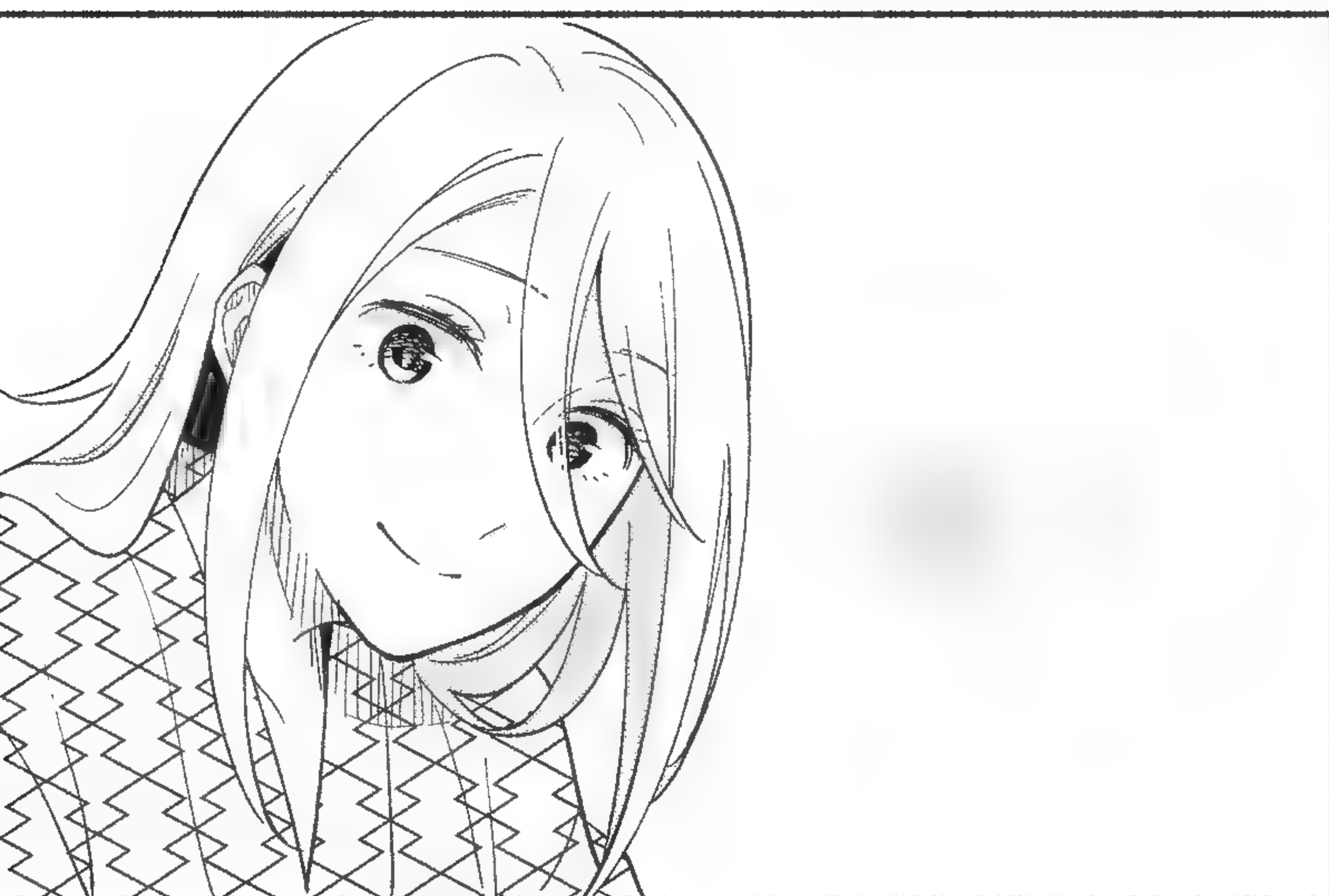
CAN'T
GET
THEM
TO TALK
TO ME.

DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
DEEP
INSIDE
THEM...



SO CALL
THIS THE FIRST
STEP ON A NEW
PATH WITH YOU,
UTA-CHAN.

I CAME ON
THIS TRIP
THINKING...
I WANTED TO
CHANGE THAT
PART OF ME
BEFORE I GOT
ANY WORSE.





THE
STUFF
YOU SAID
WAS
BOTHERING
YOU.

I'D BE
HAPPY IF
YOU'D SHARE
IT WITH ME,
AT LEAST
AS MUCH
AS YOU'RE
COMFORTABLE
WITH.

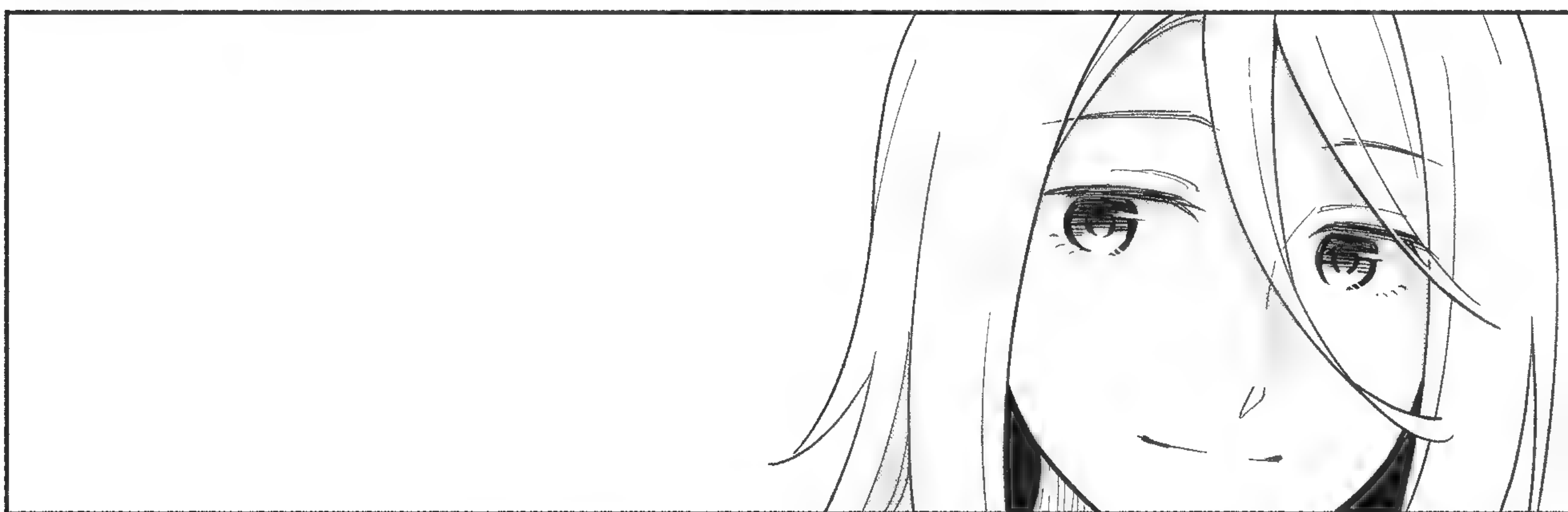


GRAB!!

WHAT
?!

THE
POINT
IS...

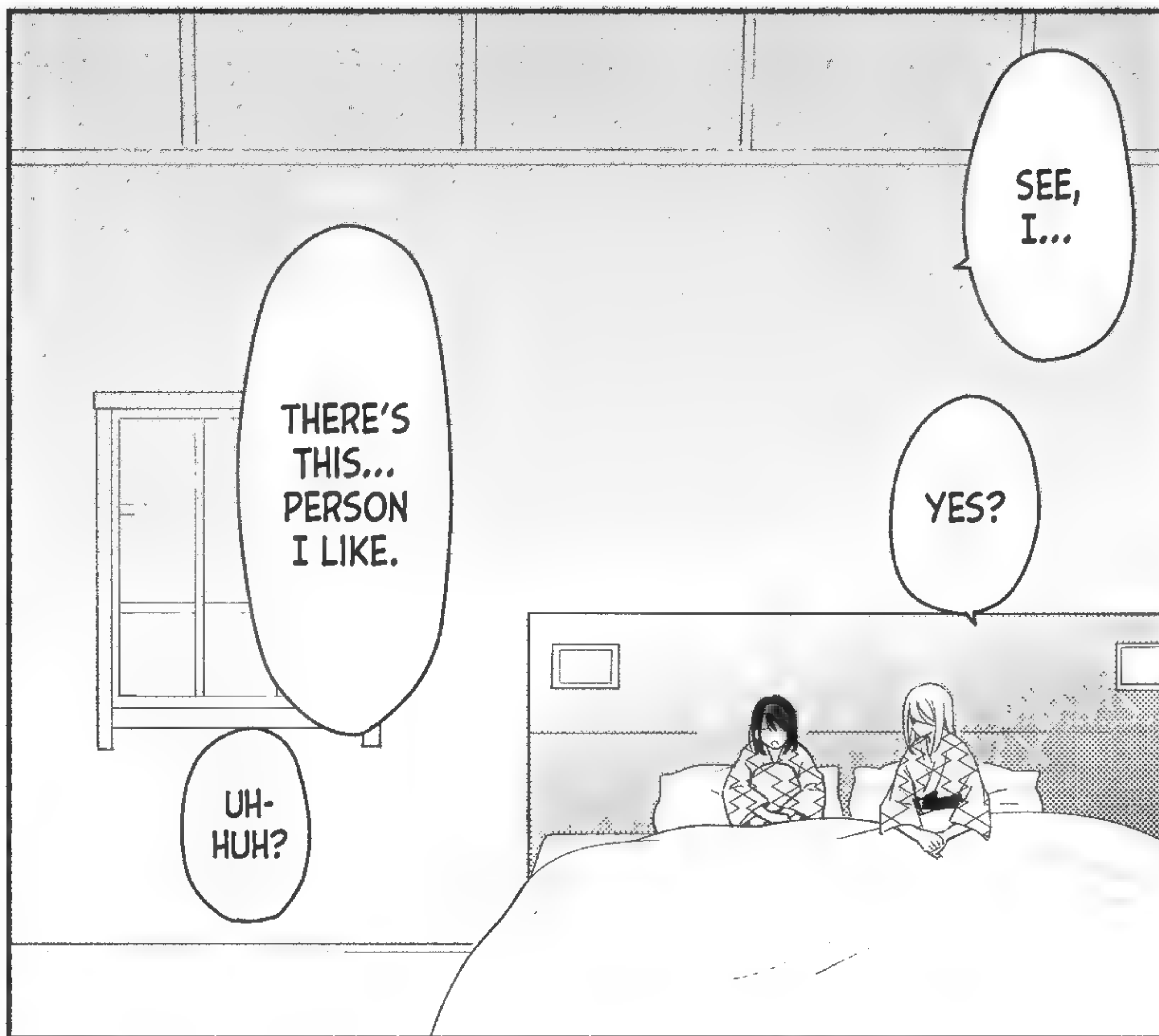
...I'M NOT
LETTING
YOU GO
TO SLEEP
UNTIL YOU
SPILL YOUR
GUTS, UTA-
CHAN!

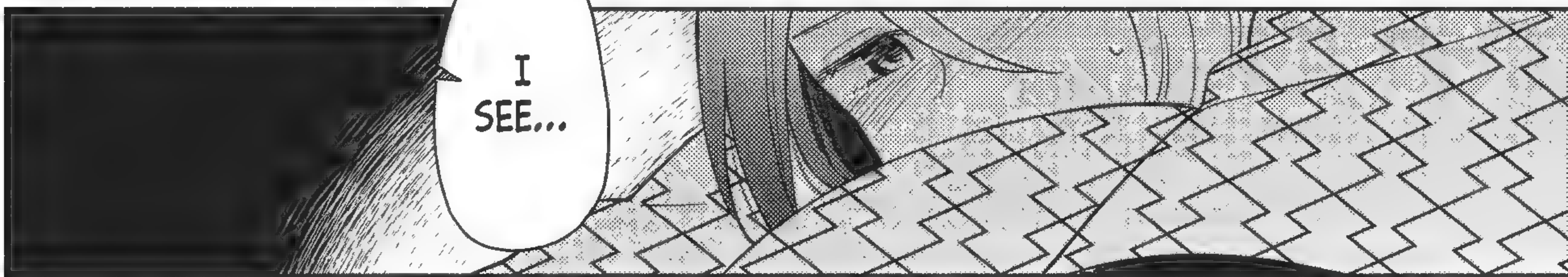
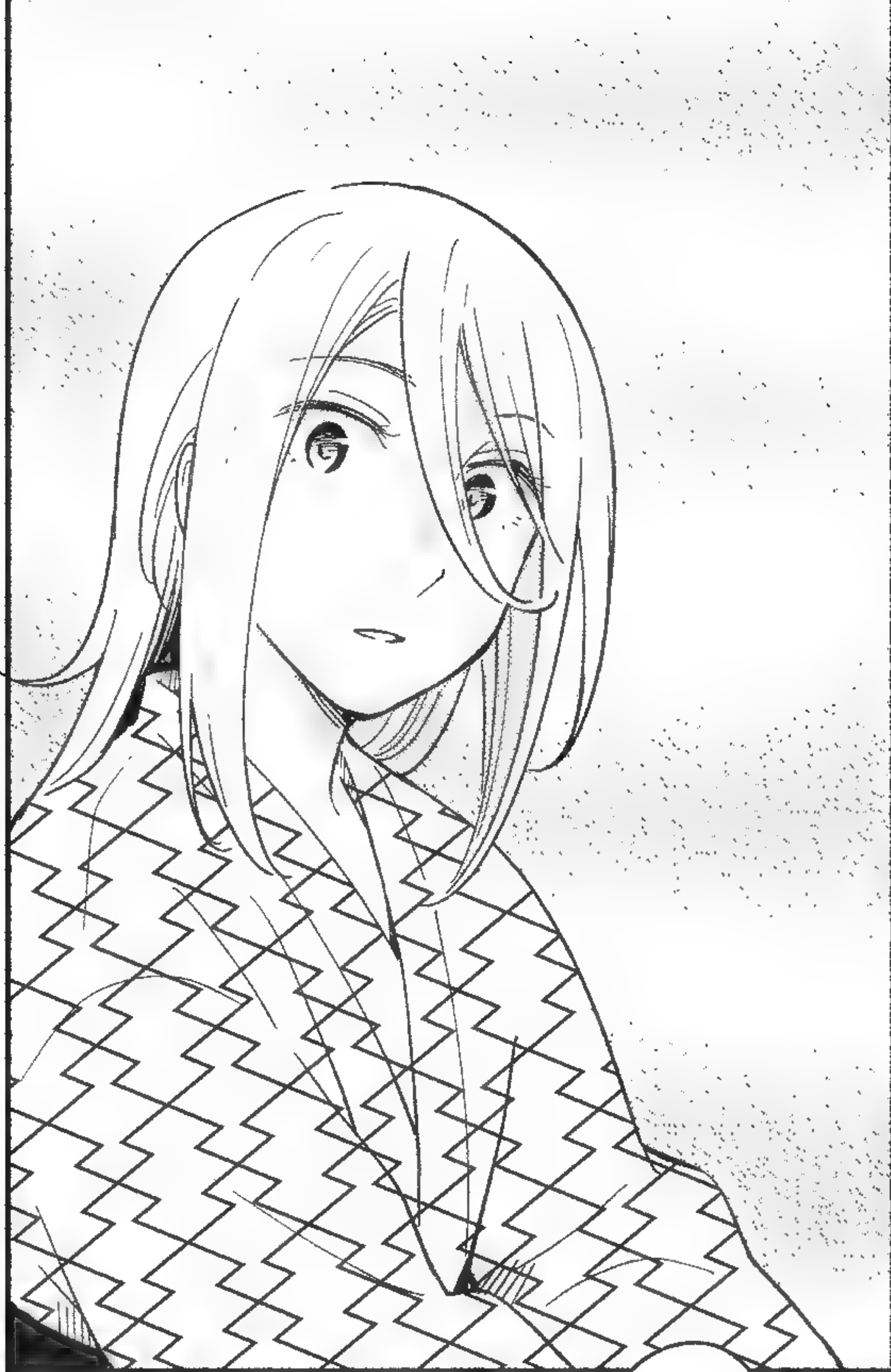


I WANT
TO KNOW
WHO YOU
REALLY
ARE.

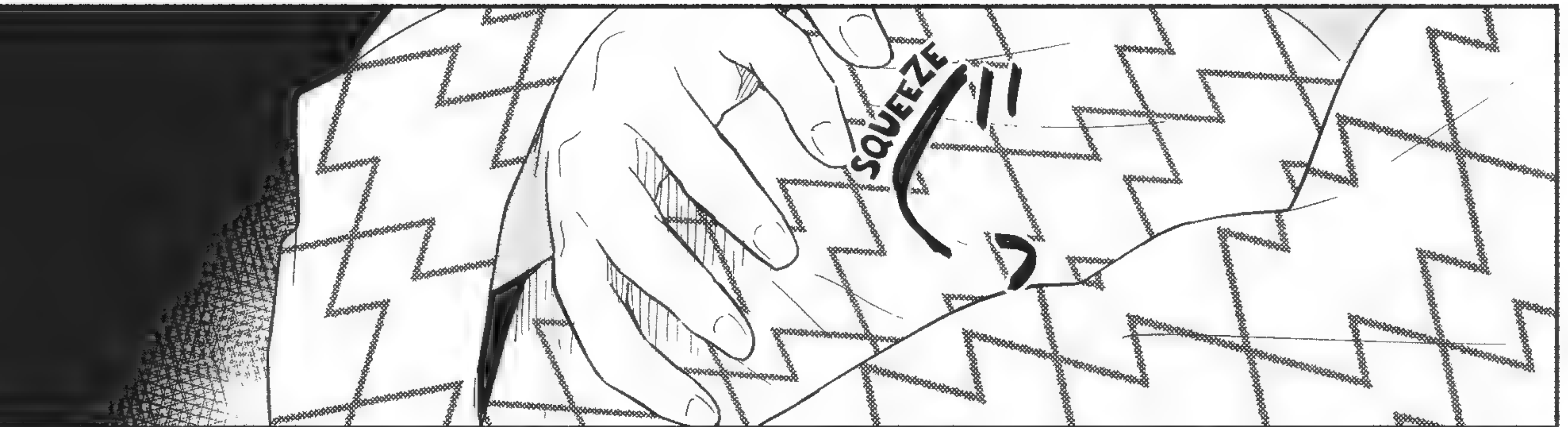
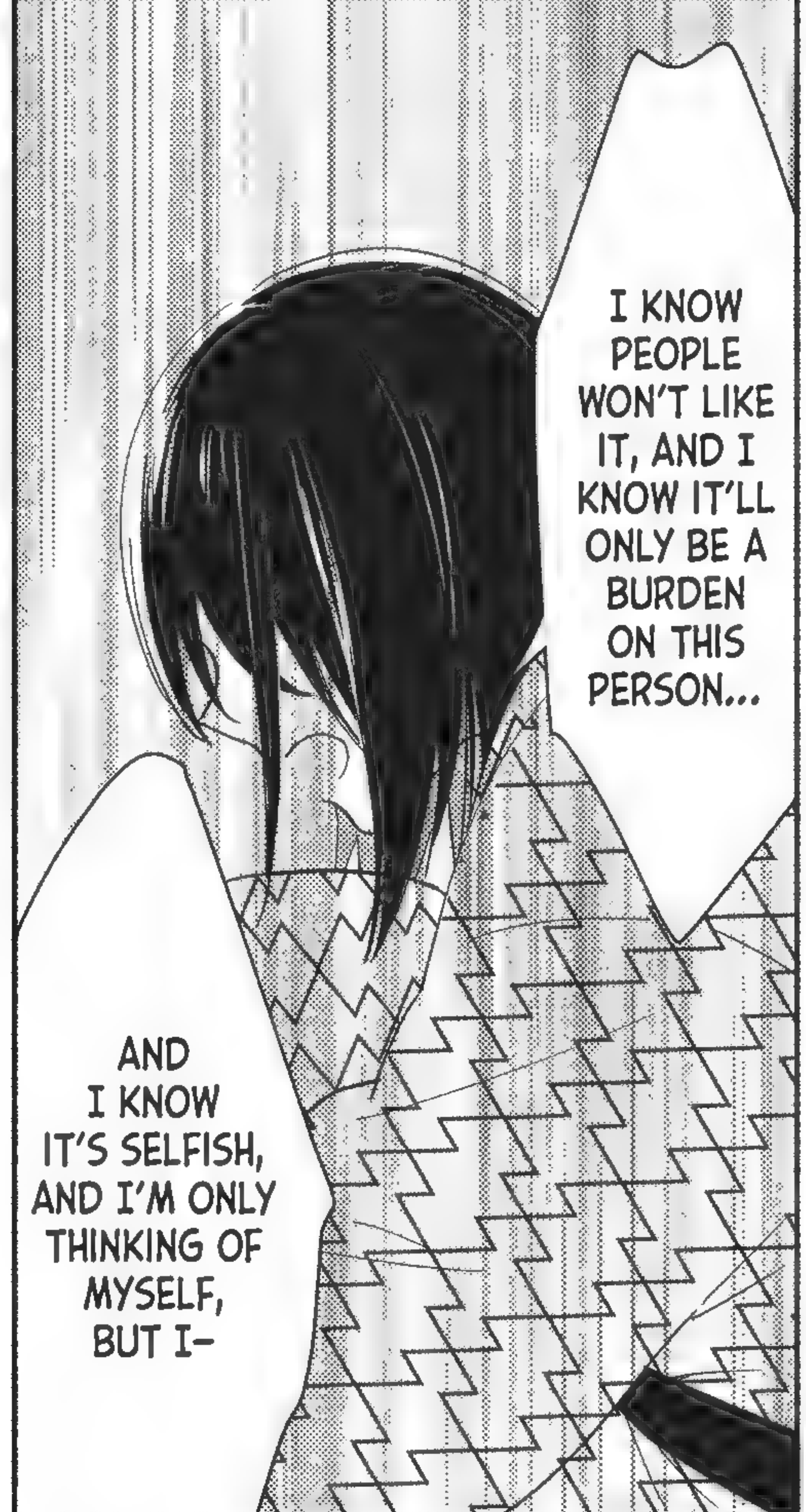


THAT'S NOT FAIR.





I WANT
YOU TO
KNOW.





I THINK
YOU FEEL
WHAT YOU
FEEL.



BUT
FALLING
HEAD OVER
HEELS IN
LOVE WITH
SOMEONE, I
UNDERSTAND
THAT.



AS AN
ADULT...
...I'M
SURE I
SHOULD
TELL YOU
HOW
WRONG
THAT
ALL IS.



THERE'S
JUST ONE
THING.



...THEN
MAYBE
YOU
SHOULD
TELL
THEM.

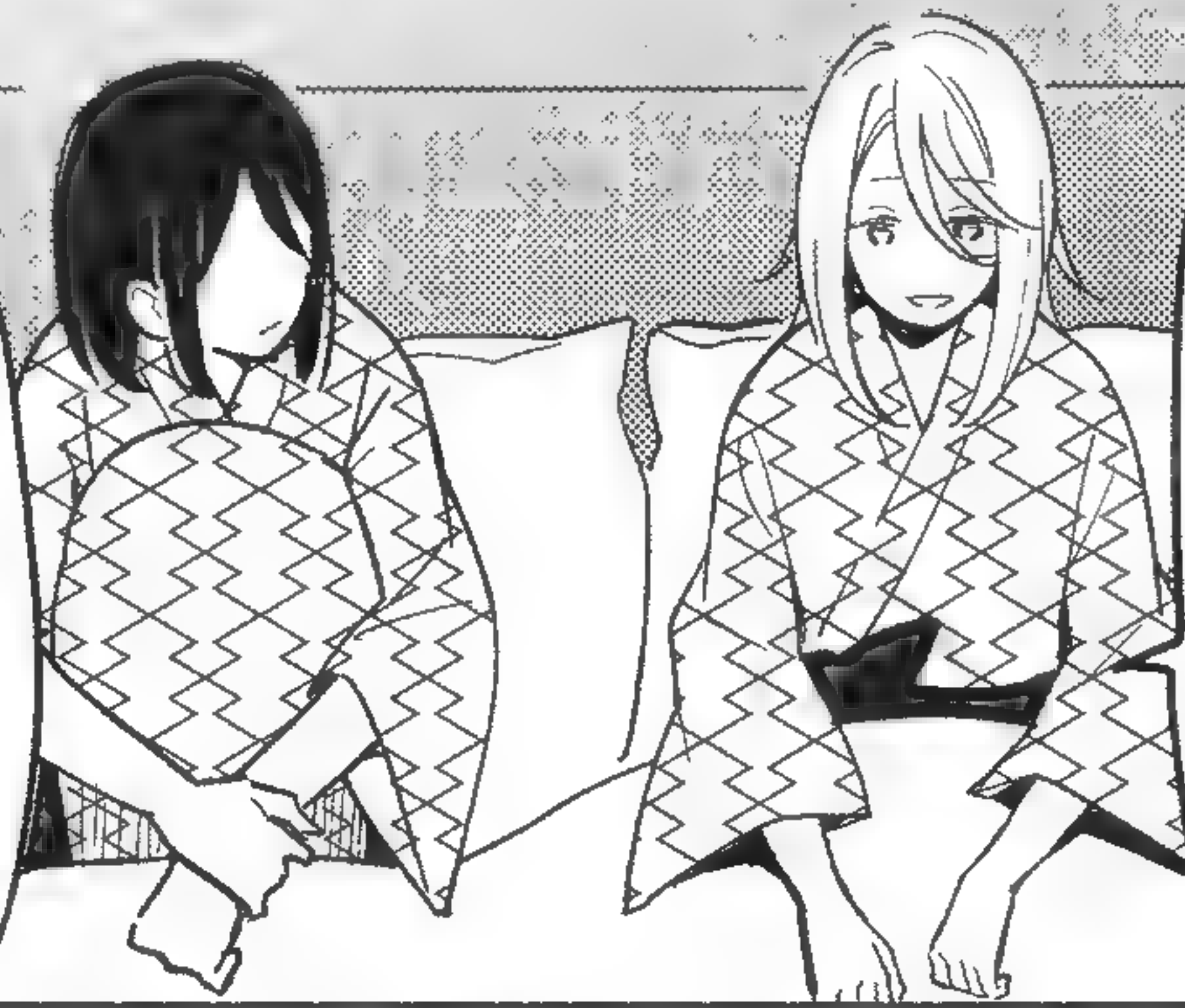


...FROM
CONFESSING
YOUR LOVE
TO THIS
PERSON...
AND FEEL
THAT'S STILL
MORE BEARABLE
THAN THE PAIN
YOU'RE IN
RIGHT NOW...

IF YOU'RE
PREPARED
FOR THE
BACKLASH
AND REMORSE
THAT WILL
COME...



MAKE
SURE
THAT YOU,
AT LEAST,
REALLY
ACCEPT
YOUR OWN
FEELINGS.

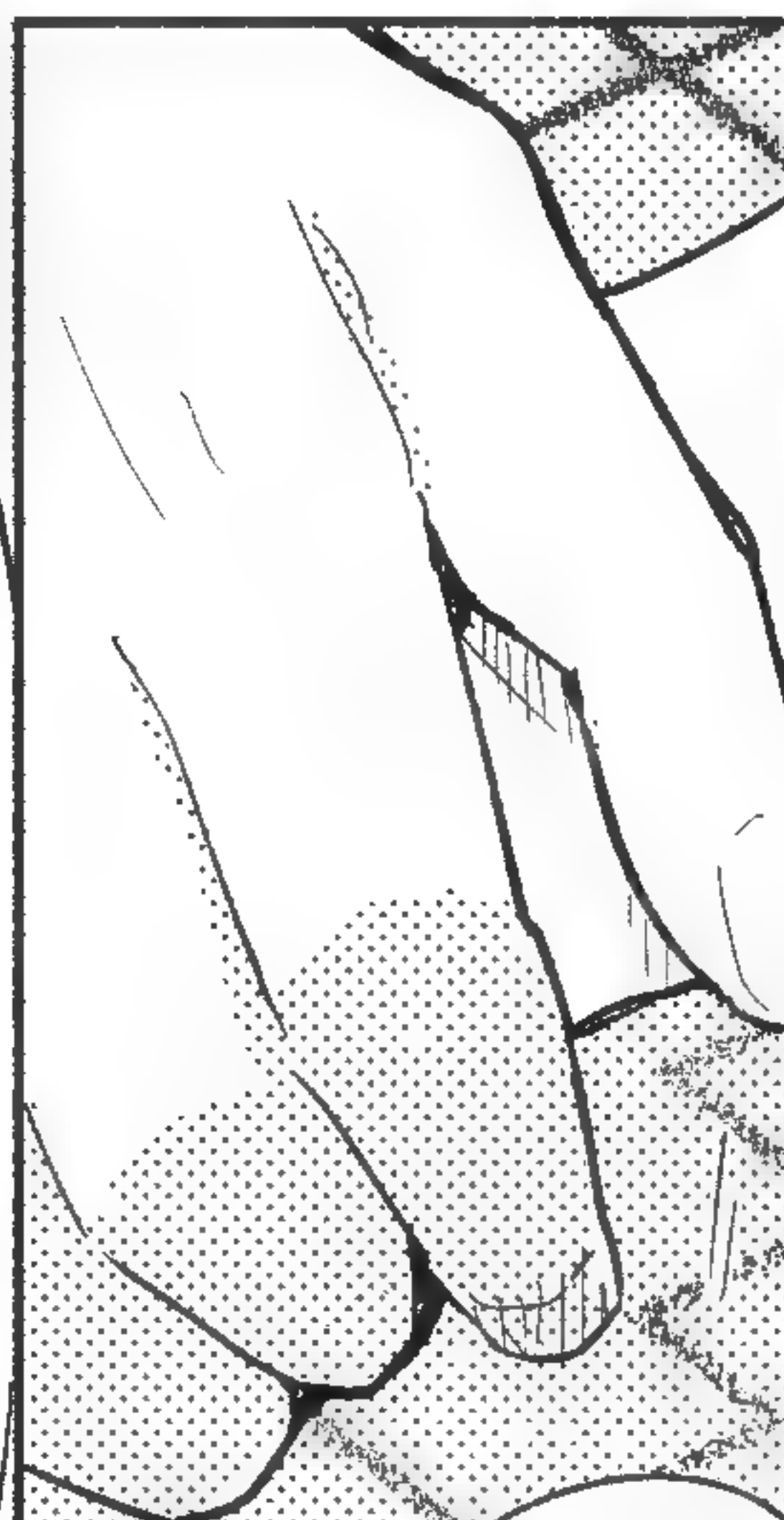


IT'D BE
A WASTE,
SPITTING
IT OUT JUST
IN HOPES OF
FEELING
BETTER.

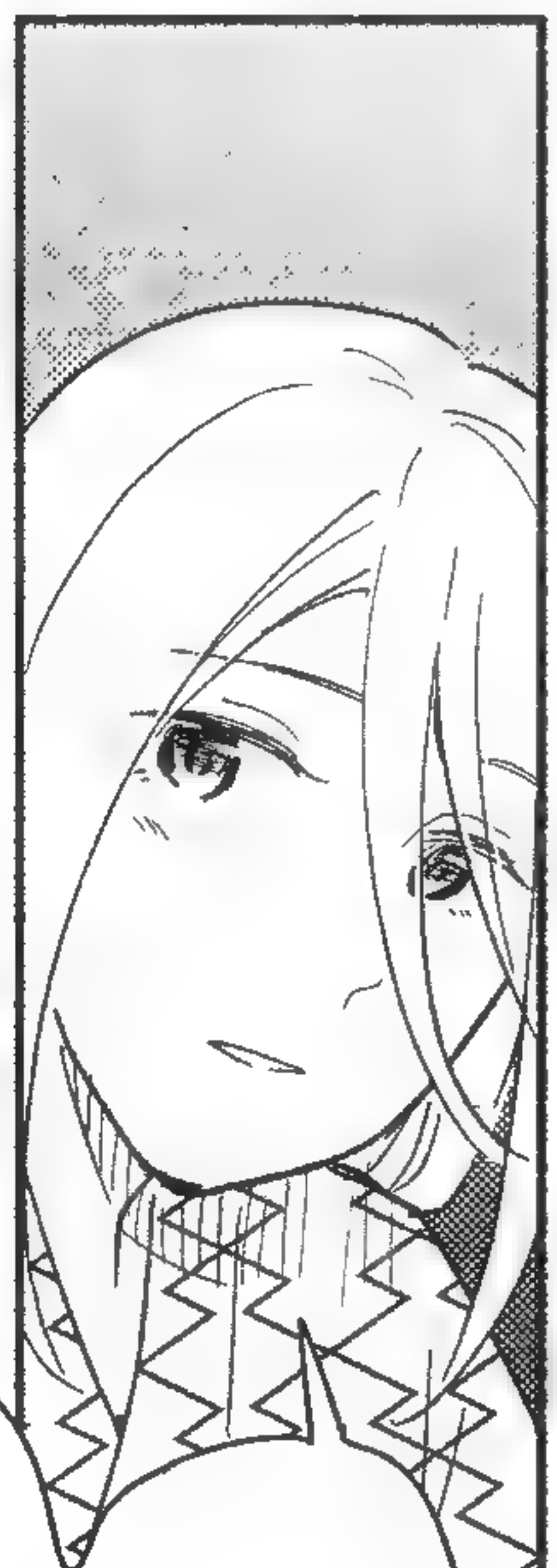
YOU'RE
LUCKY TO
EXPERIENCE
THAT ONCE,
IF EVER, IN
A LIFETIME.

THE
KIND OF
LOVE YOU'RE
HELPLESS FOR,
THAT WRAPS ITSELF
AROUND YOUR
HEART AND
NEVER LETS
GO...

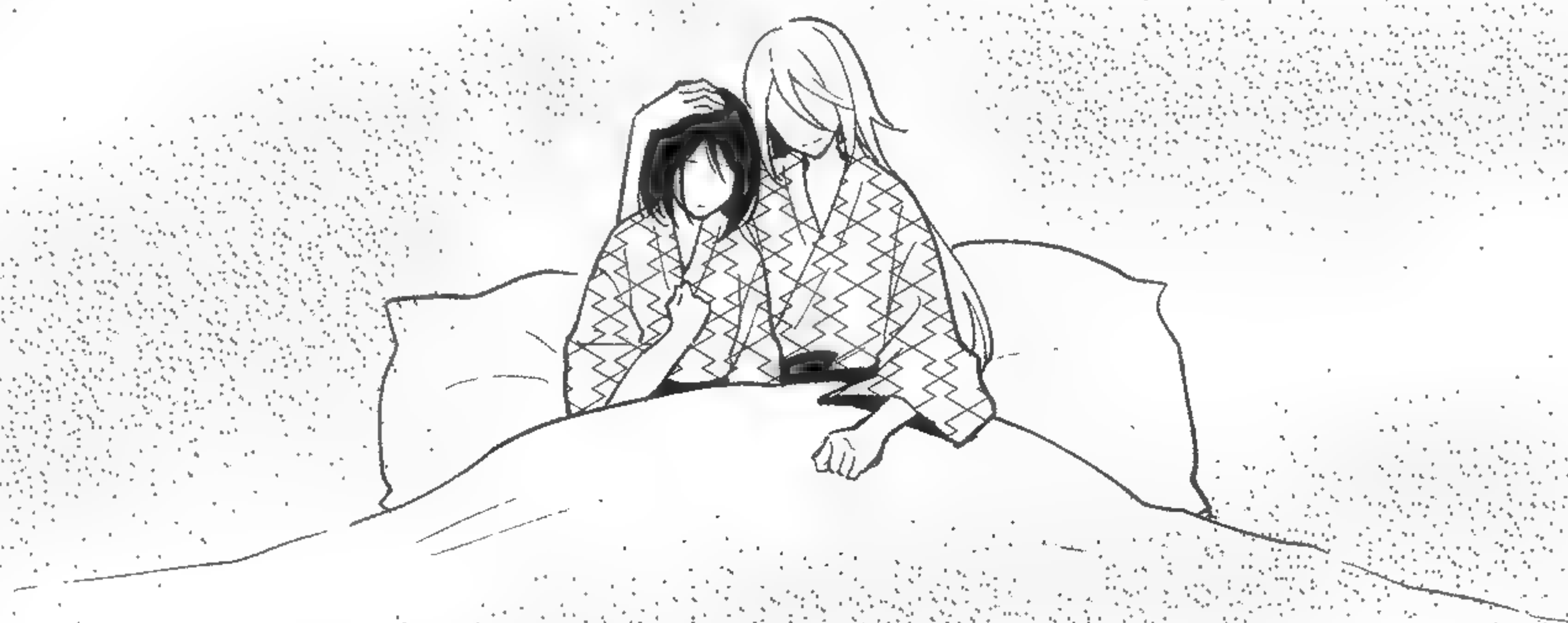
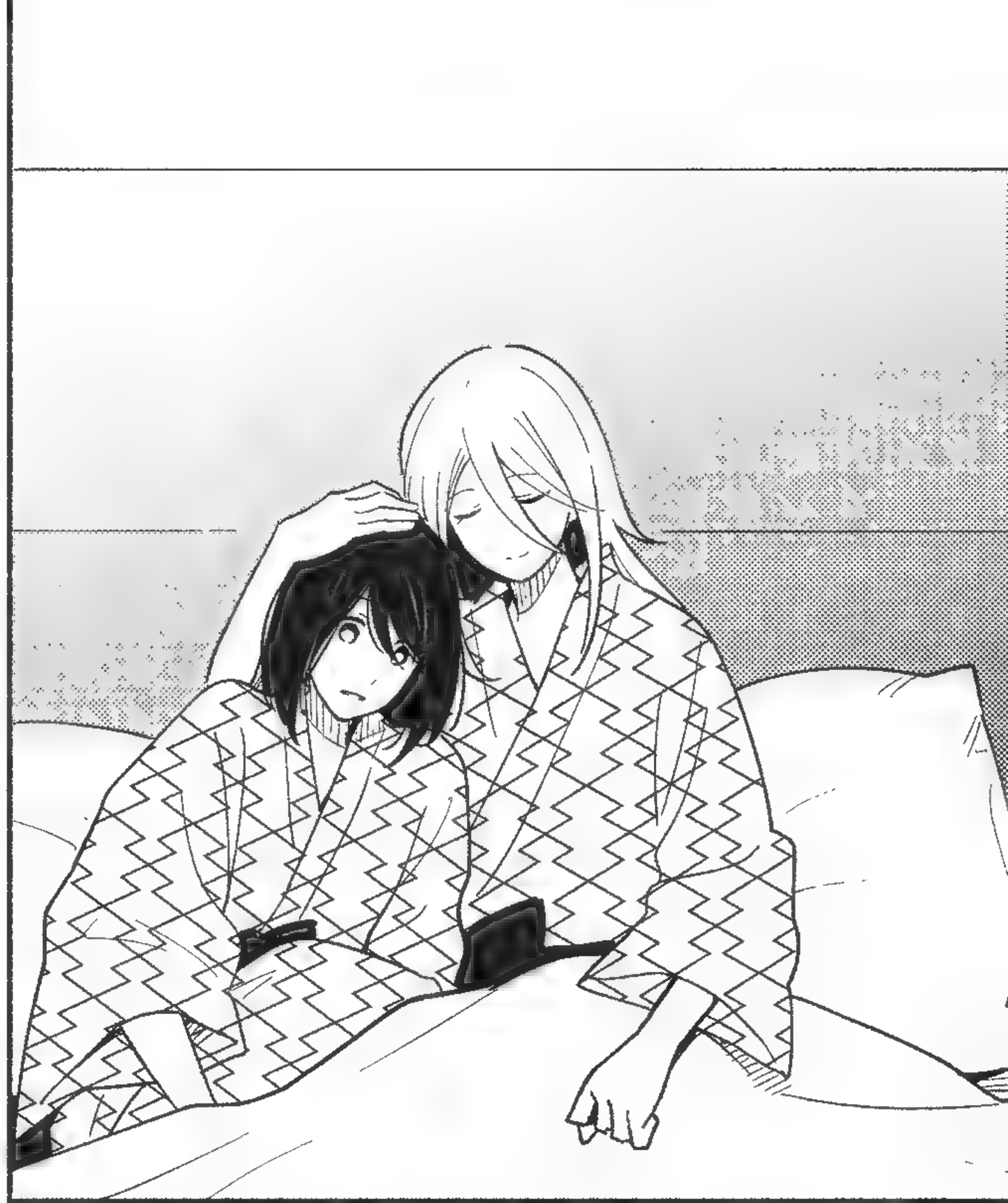
THOSE
FEELINGS ARE
SOMETHING
WONDERFUL.



...THEN
DON'T
DIMINISH
IT.

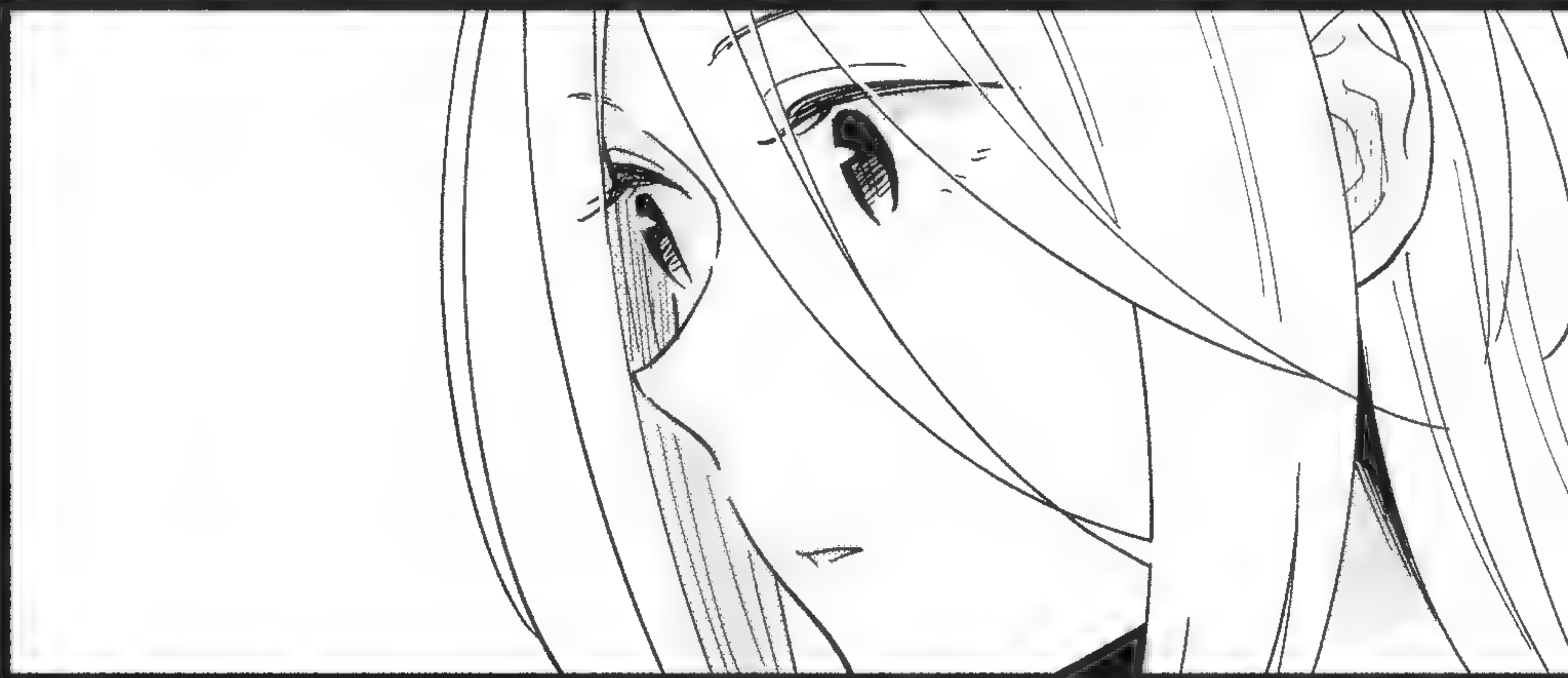
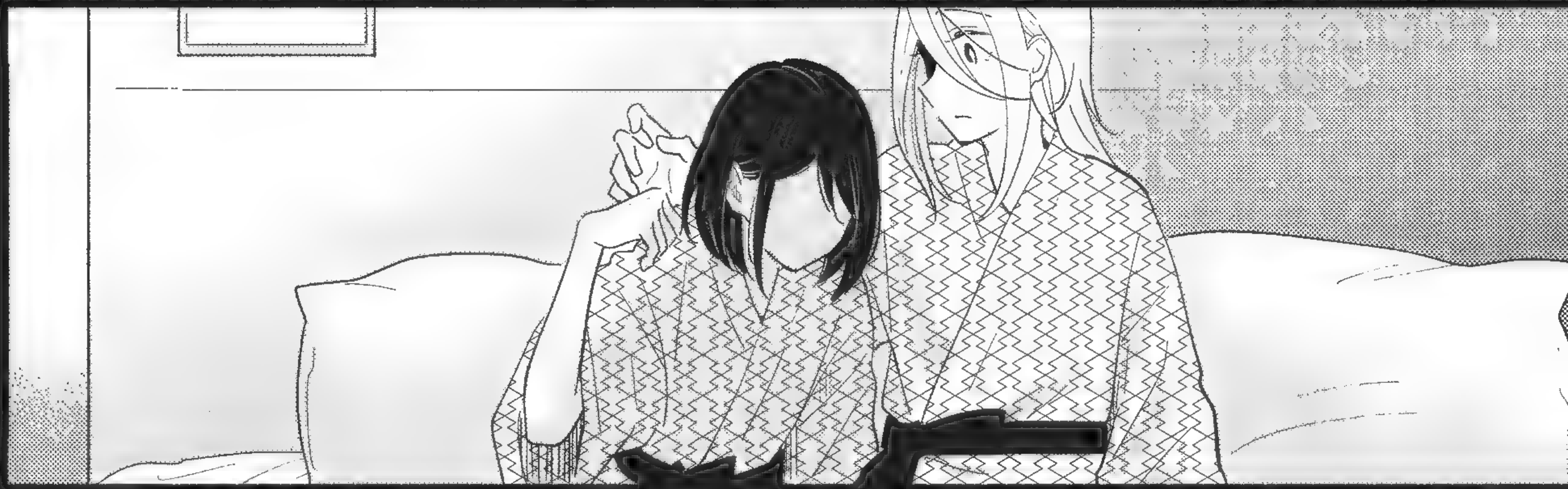


IF
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU'VE
FOUND...





KAORU-
SAN...

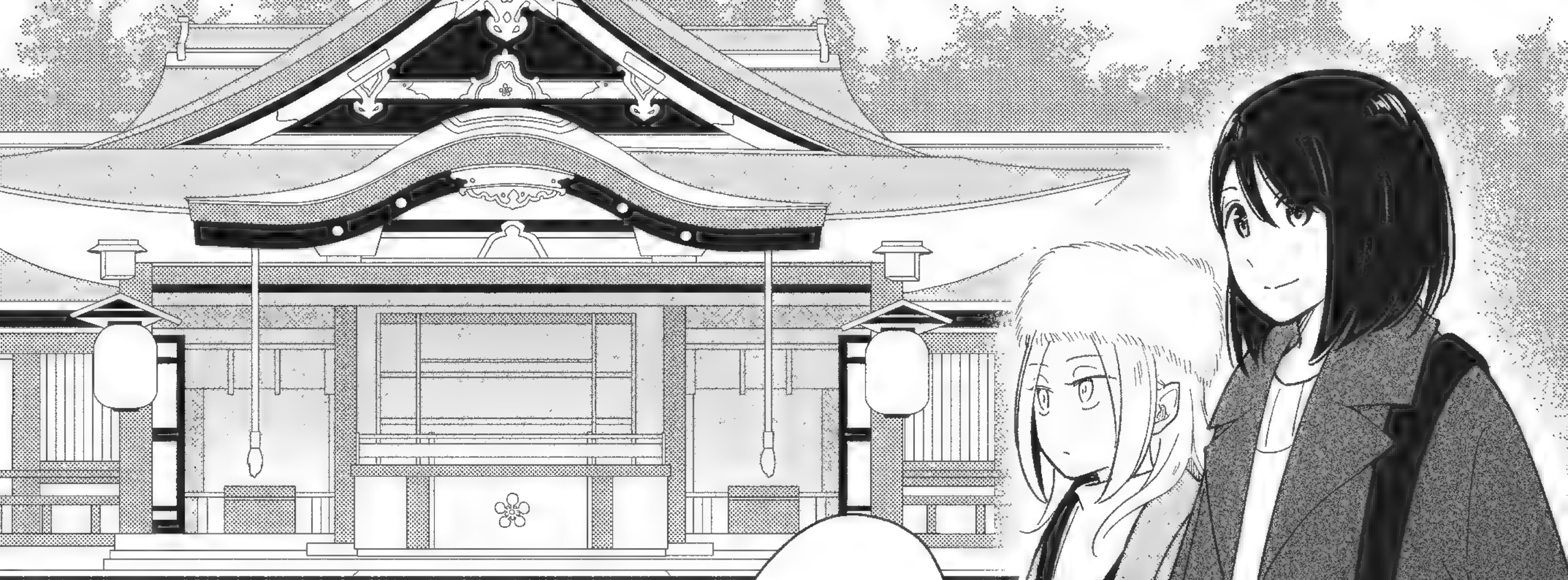


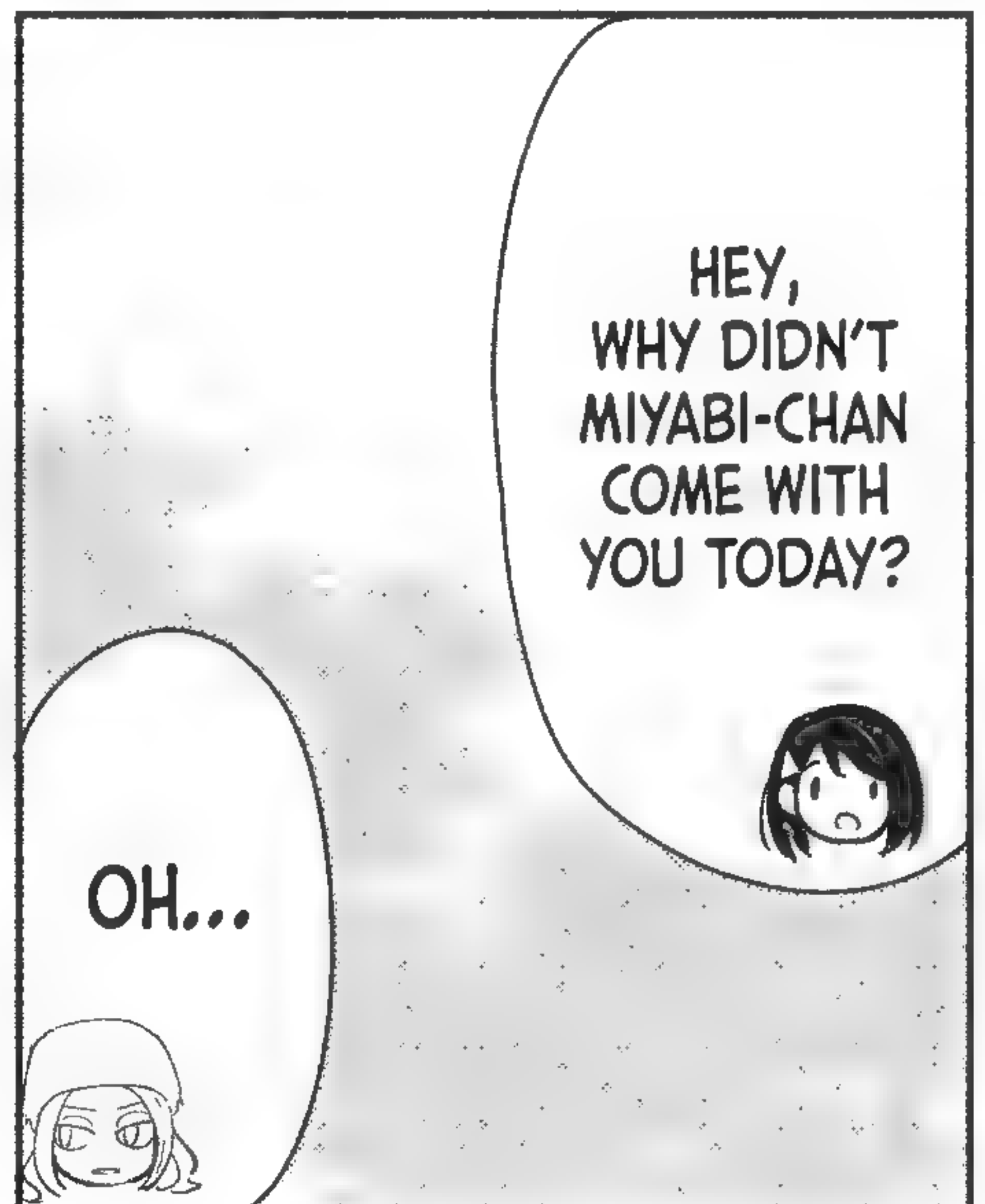
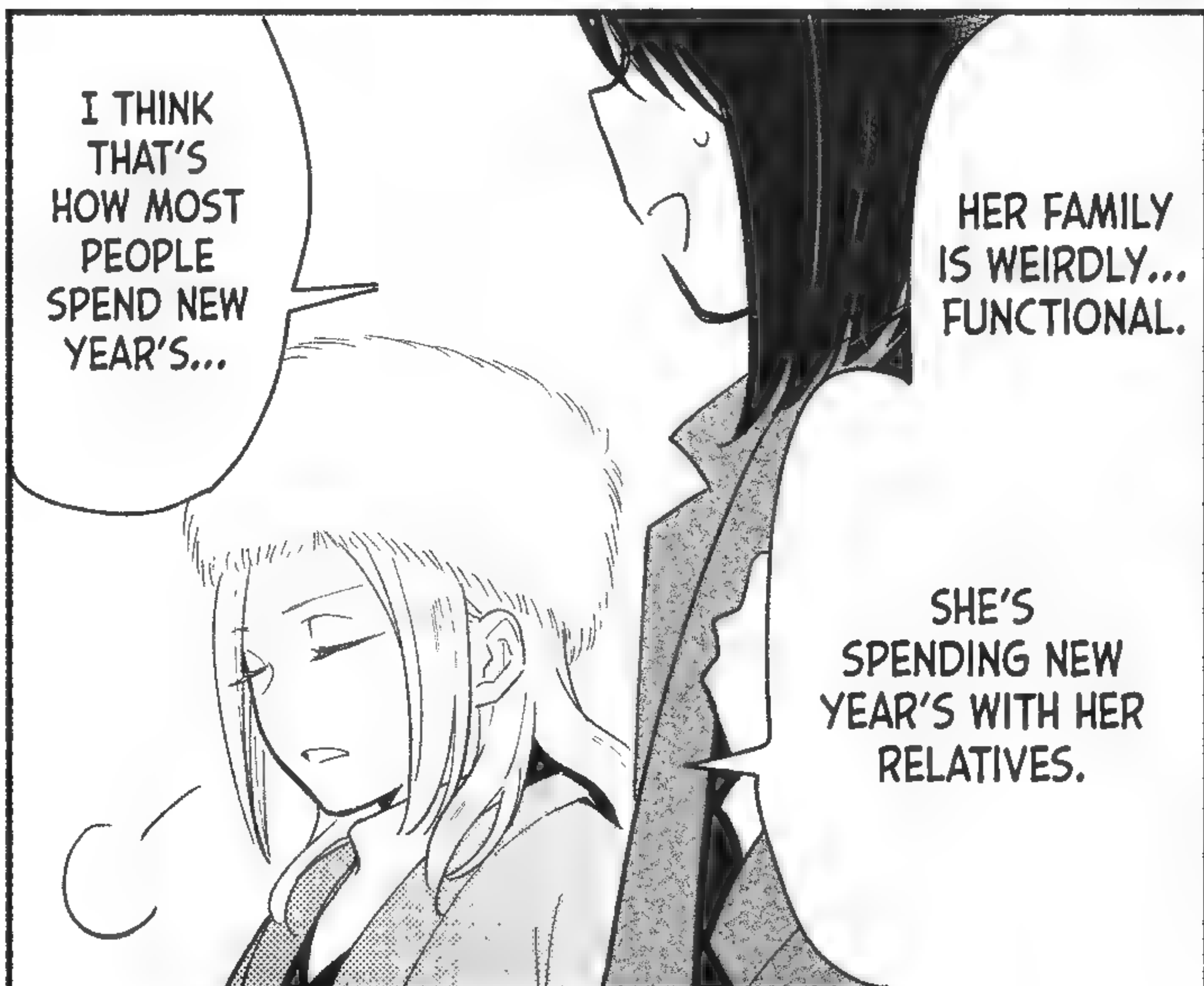
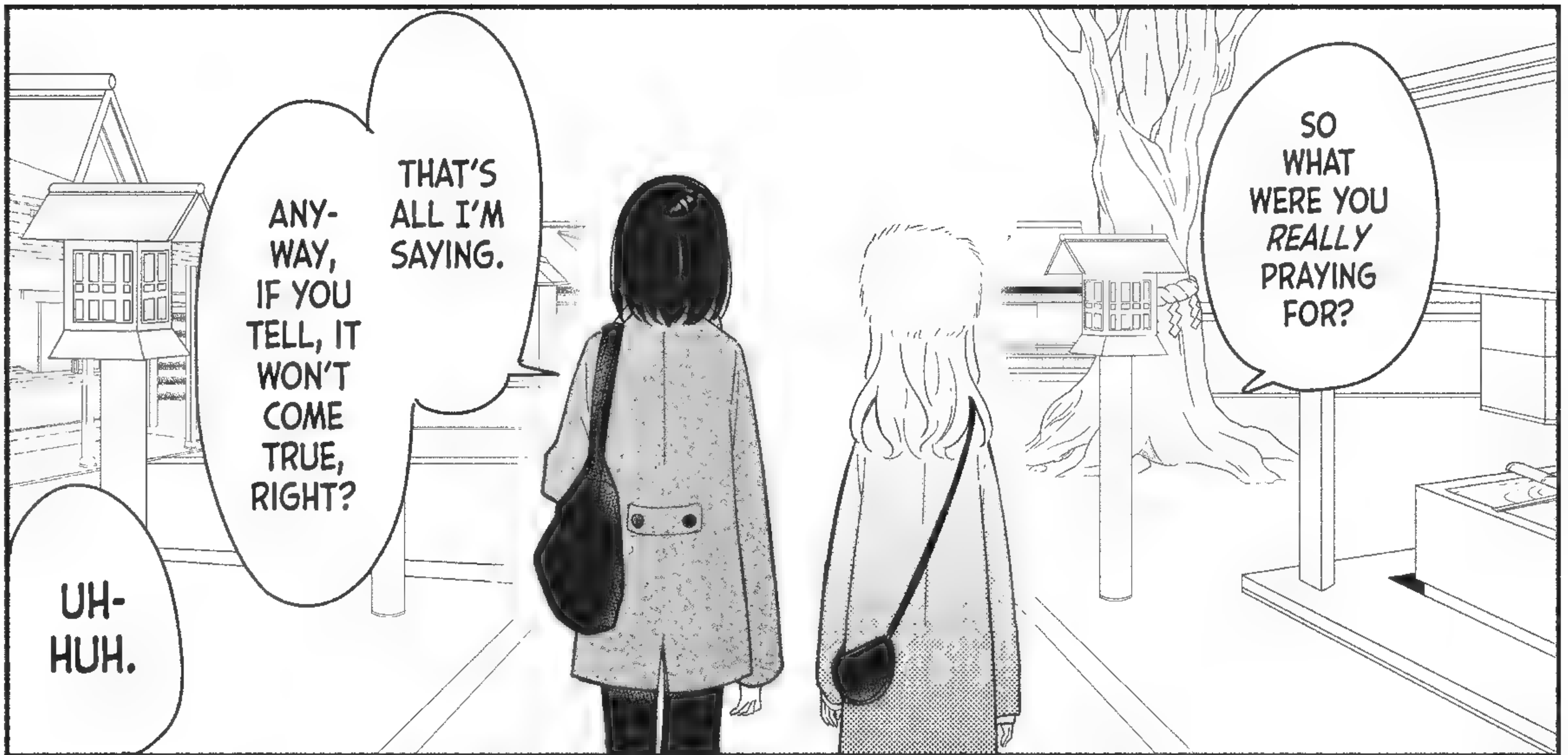
I'M
SORRY.

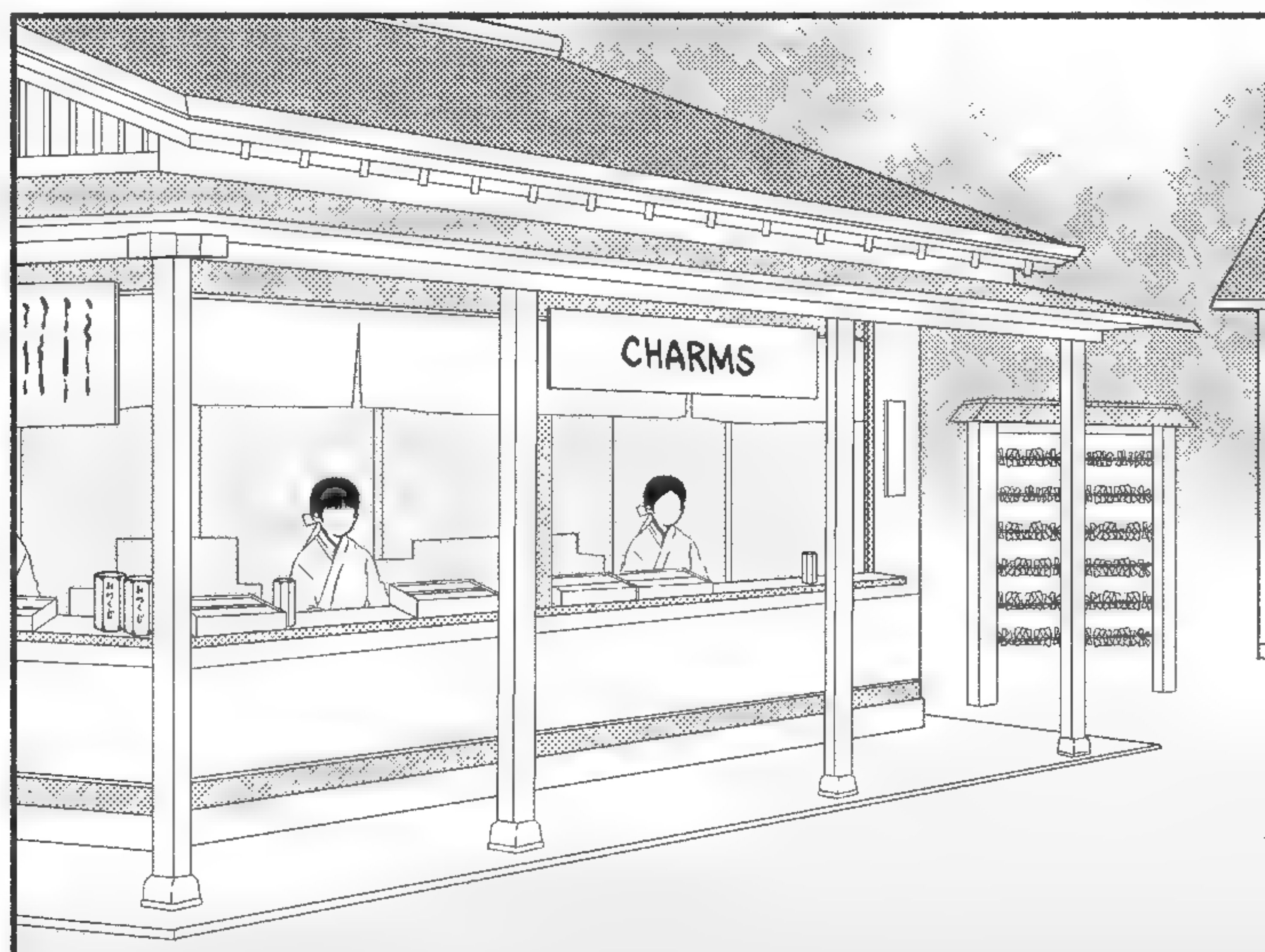
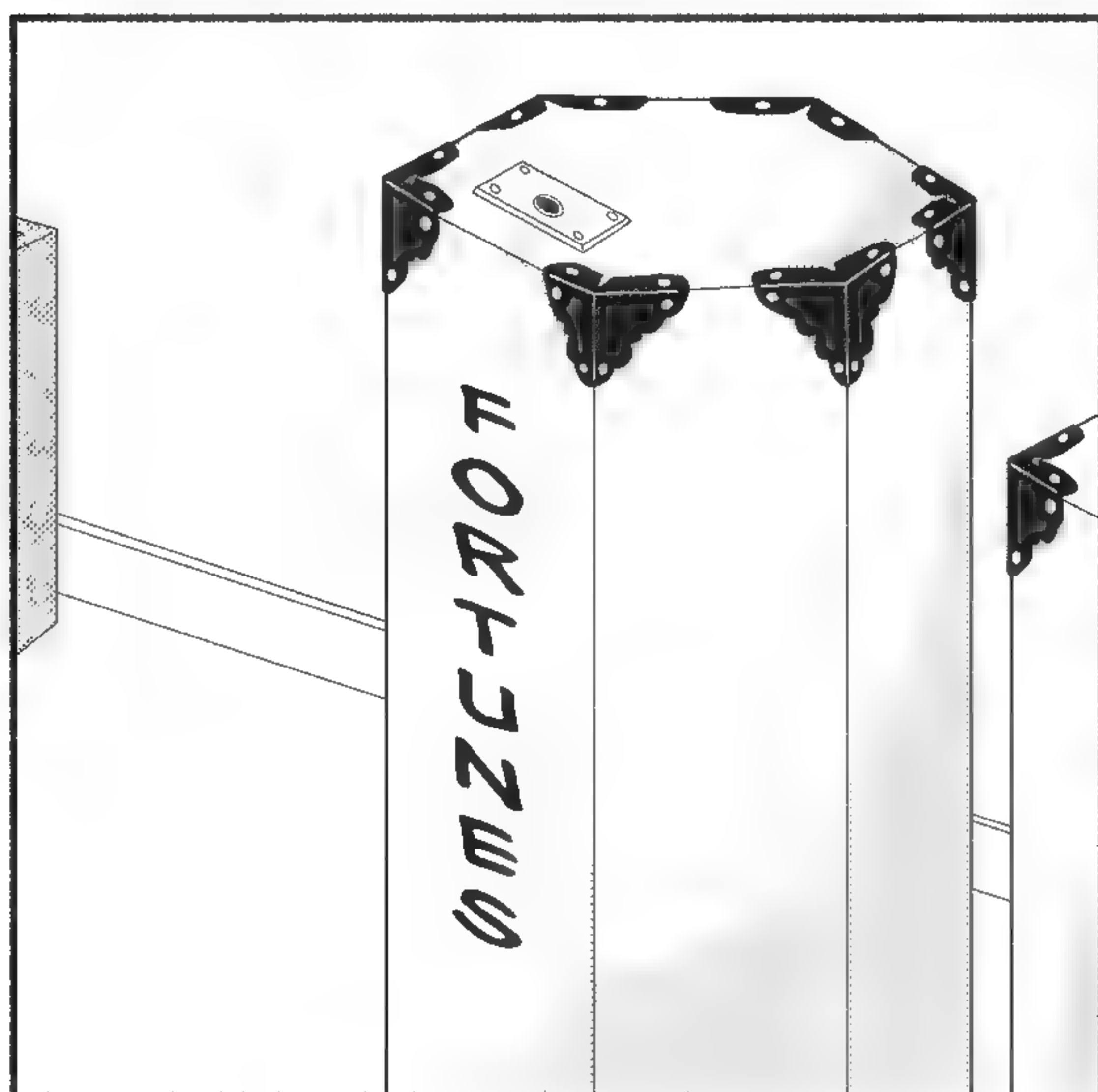
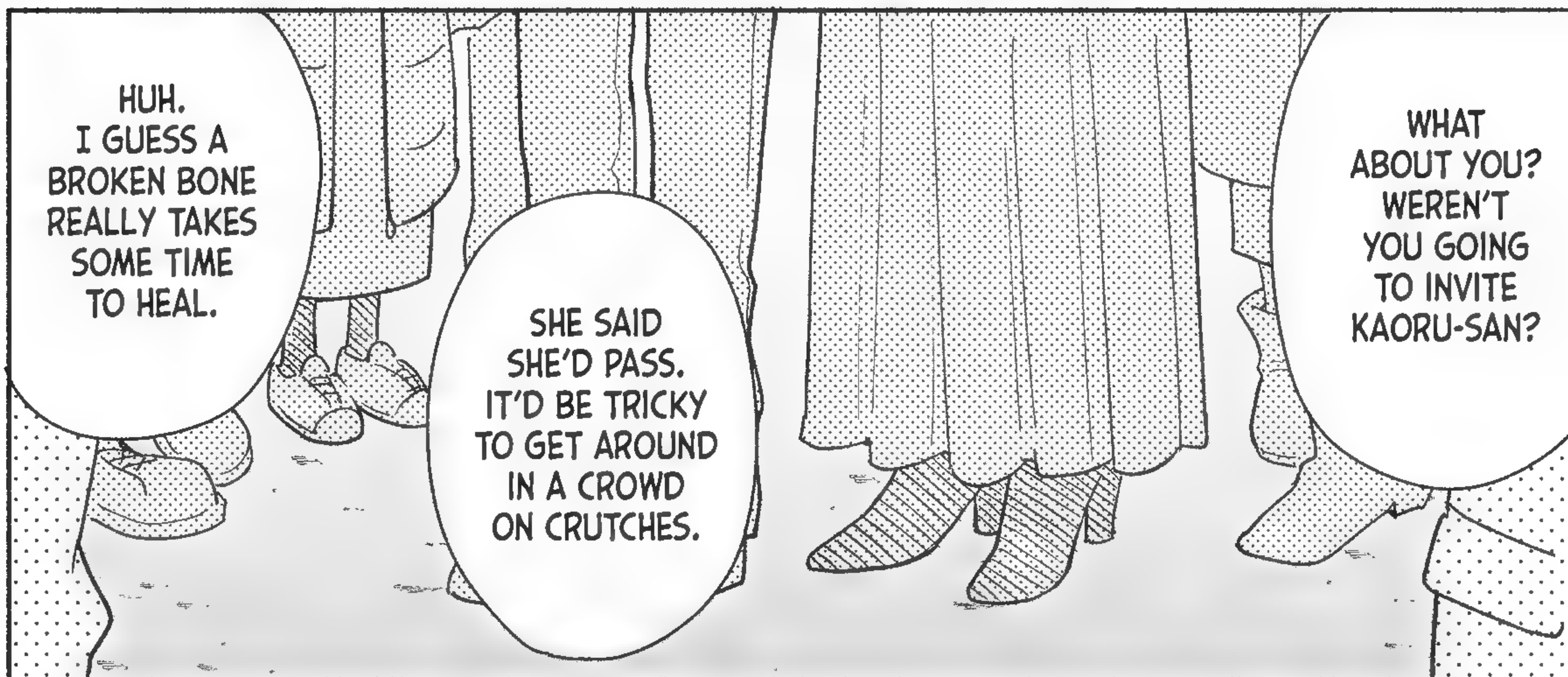
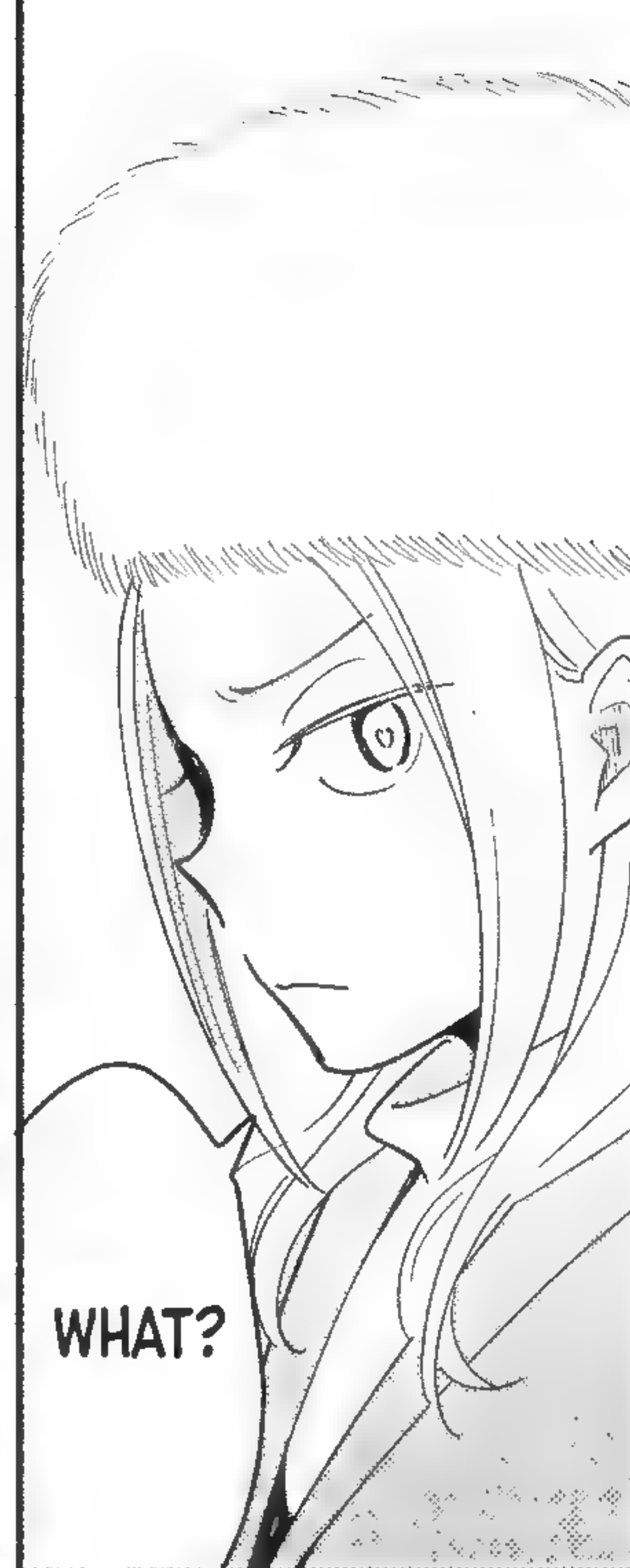
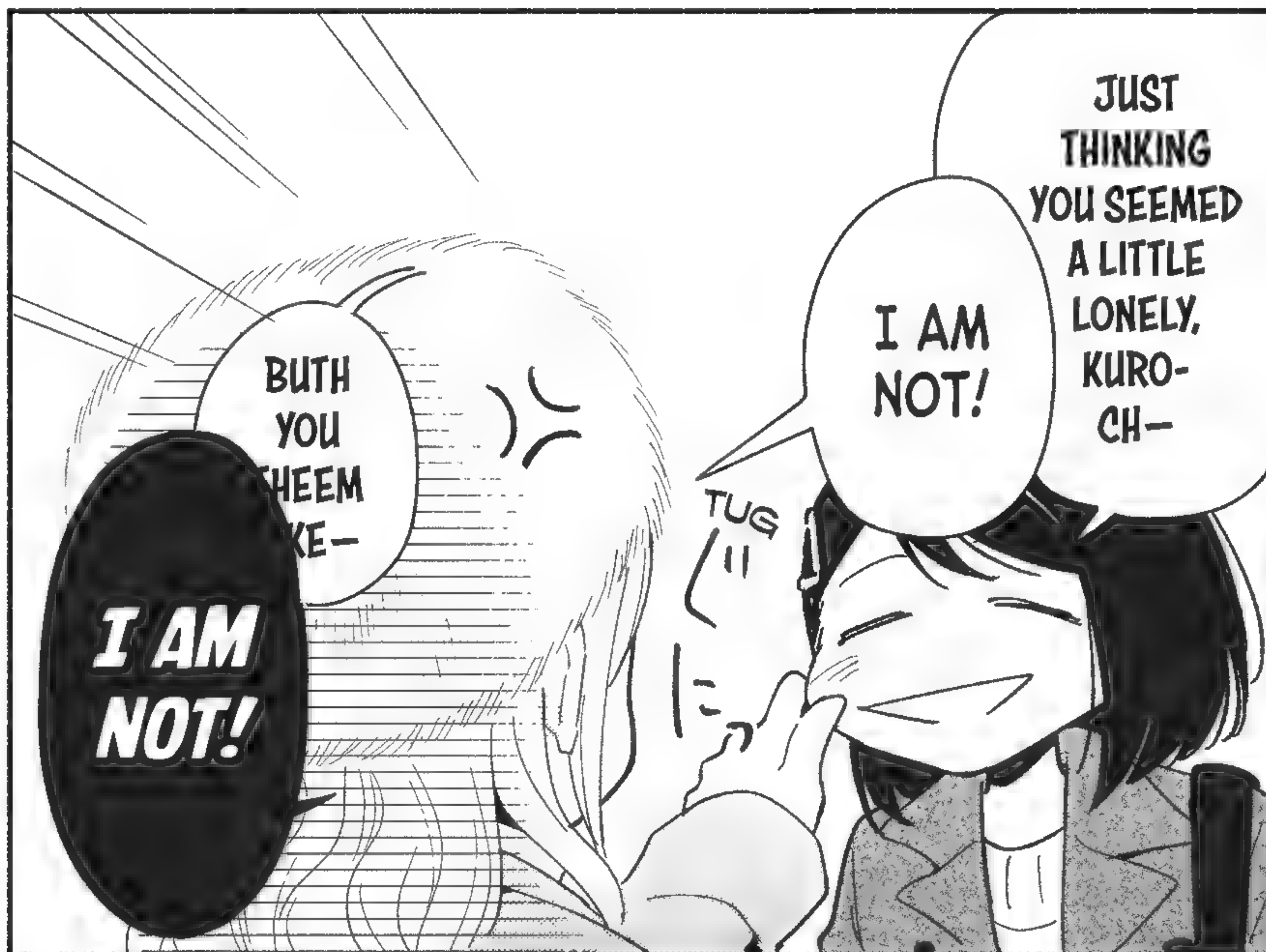
*If I Could
Reach You*

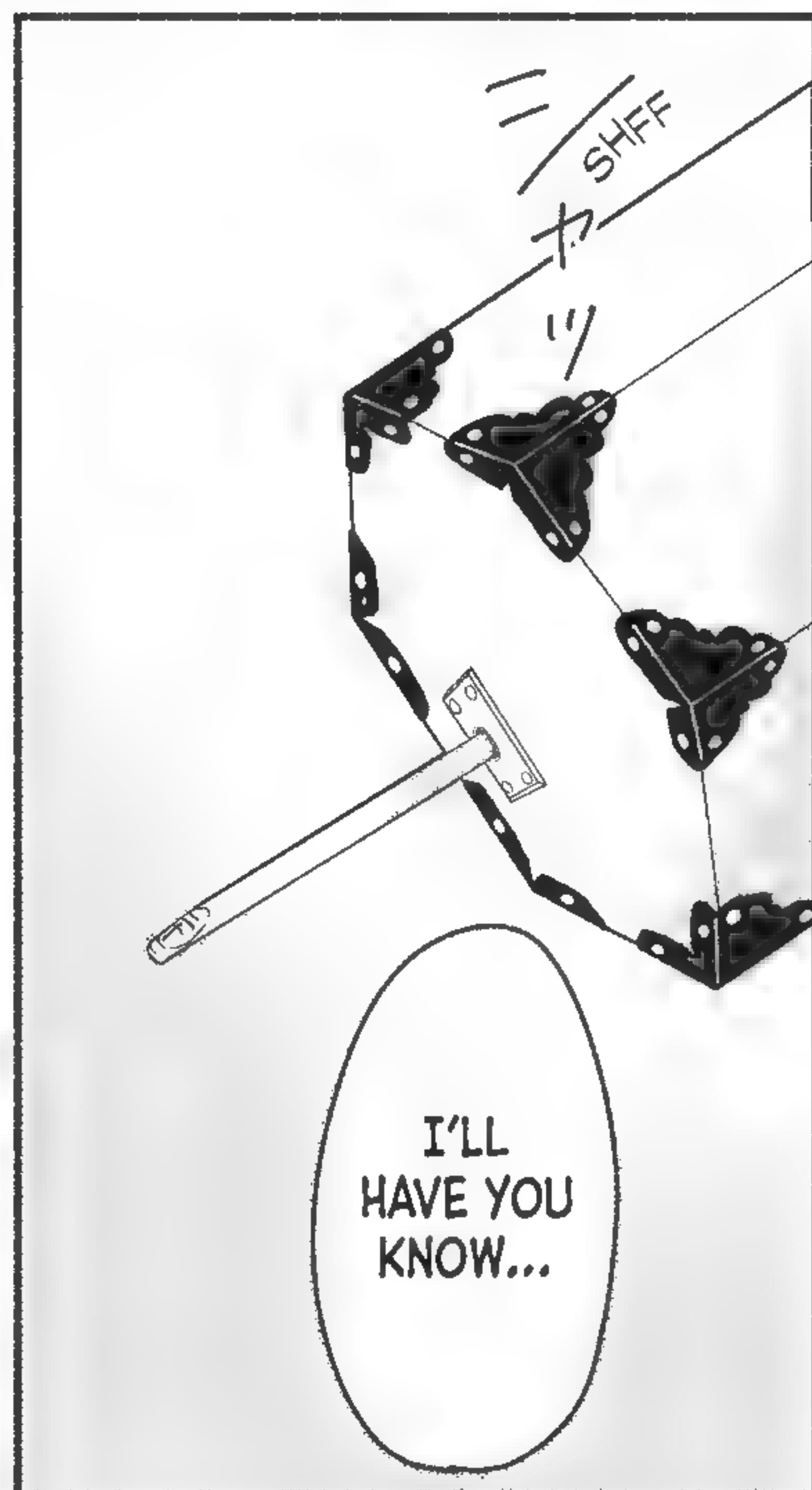
*If I Could
Reach You*





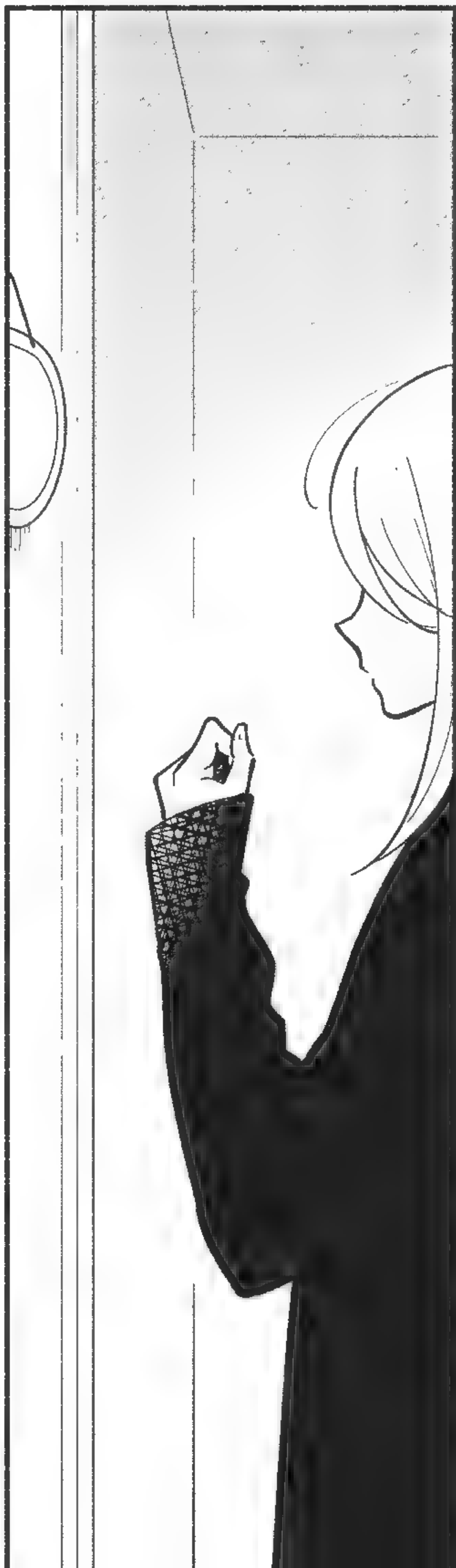
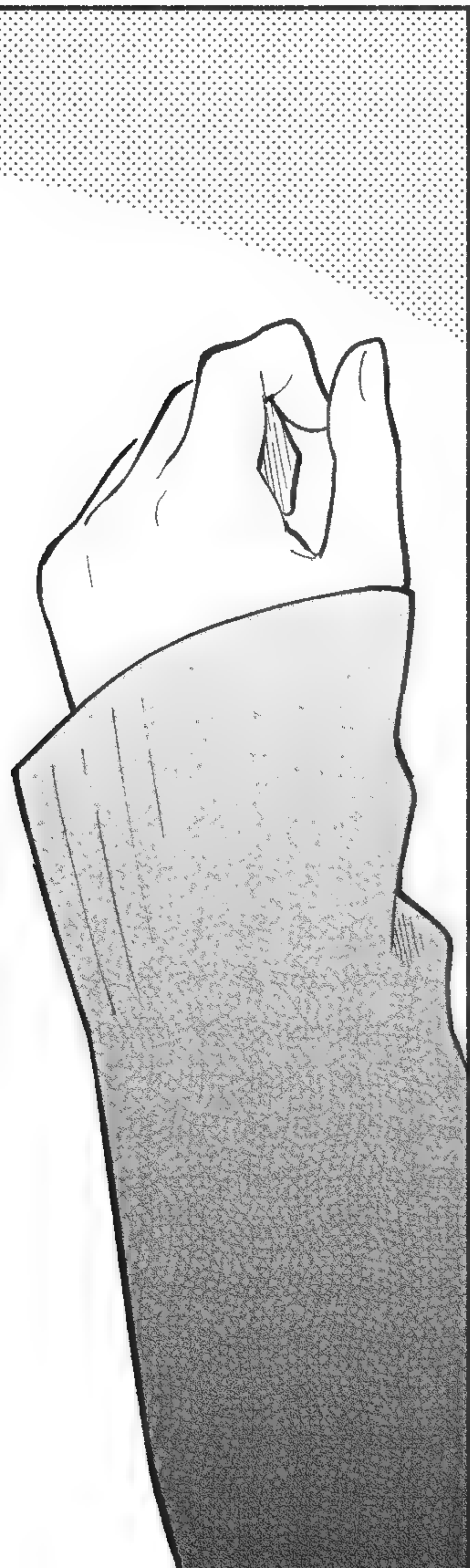


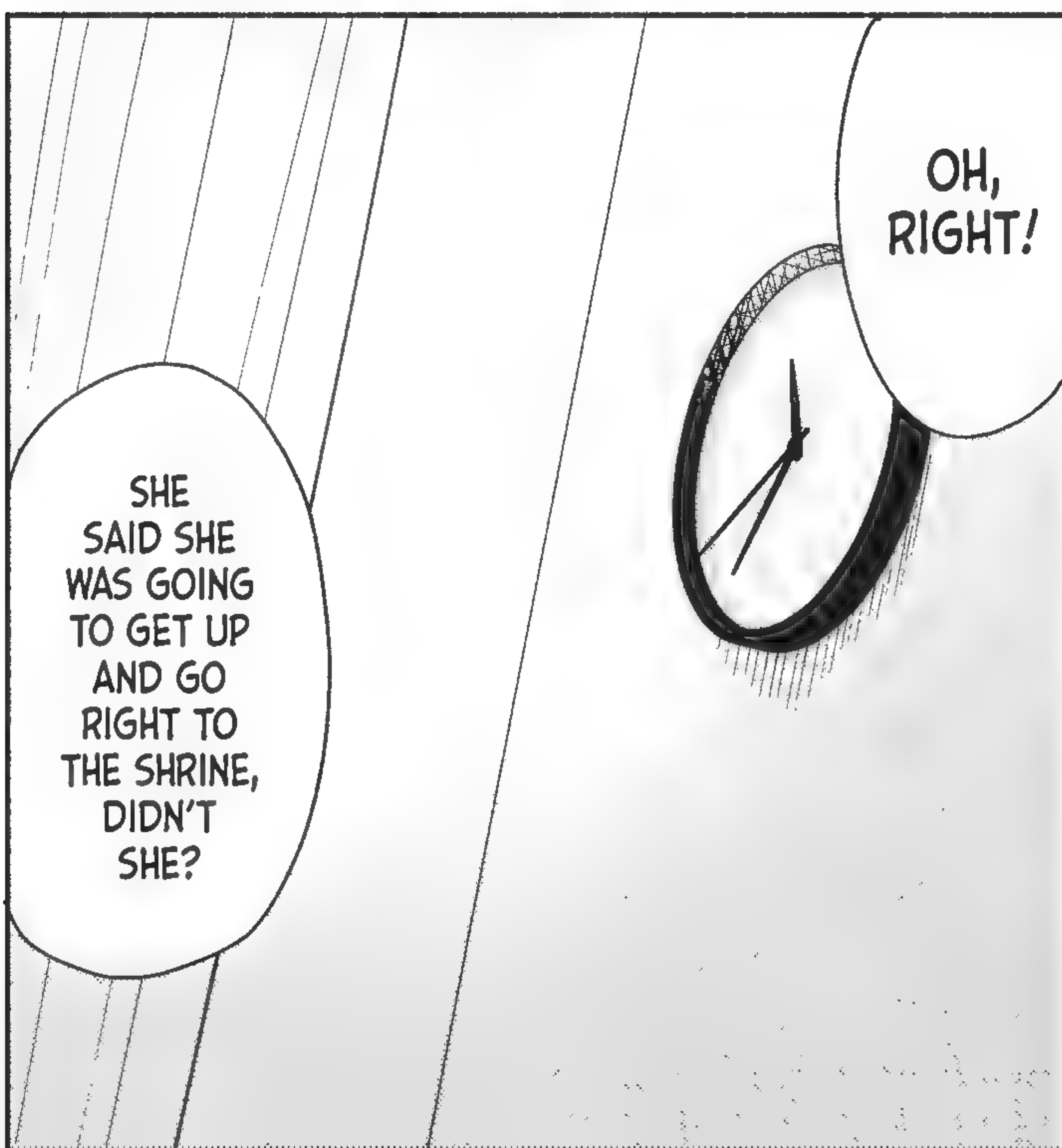
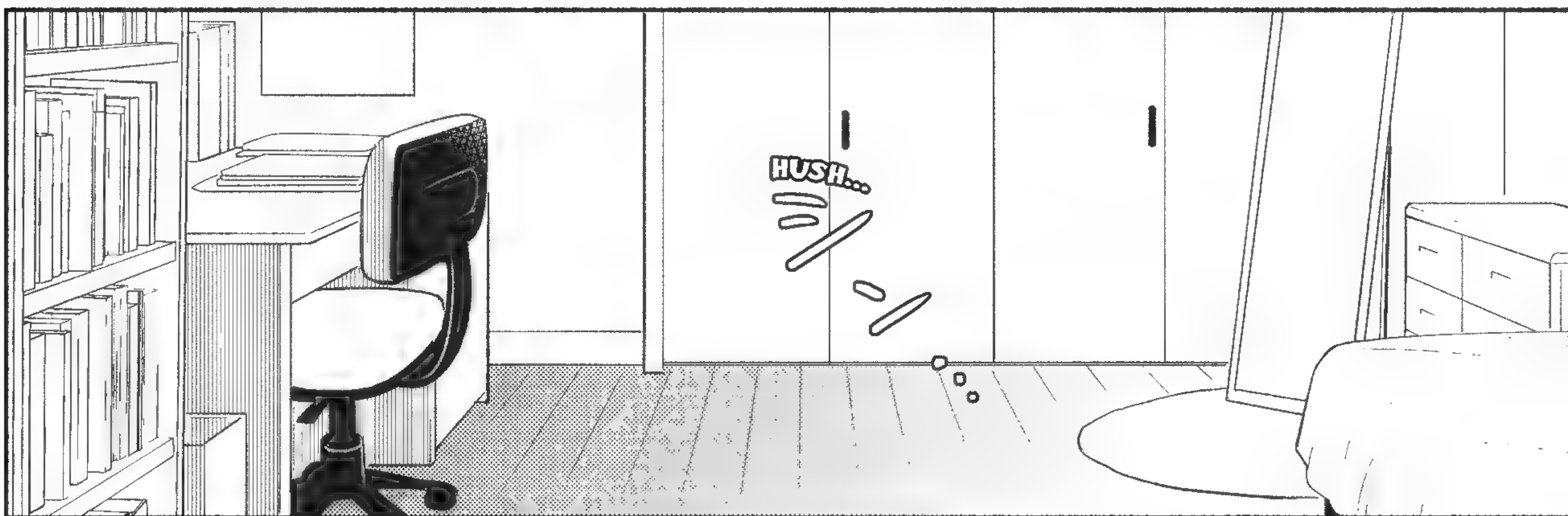


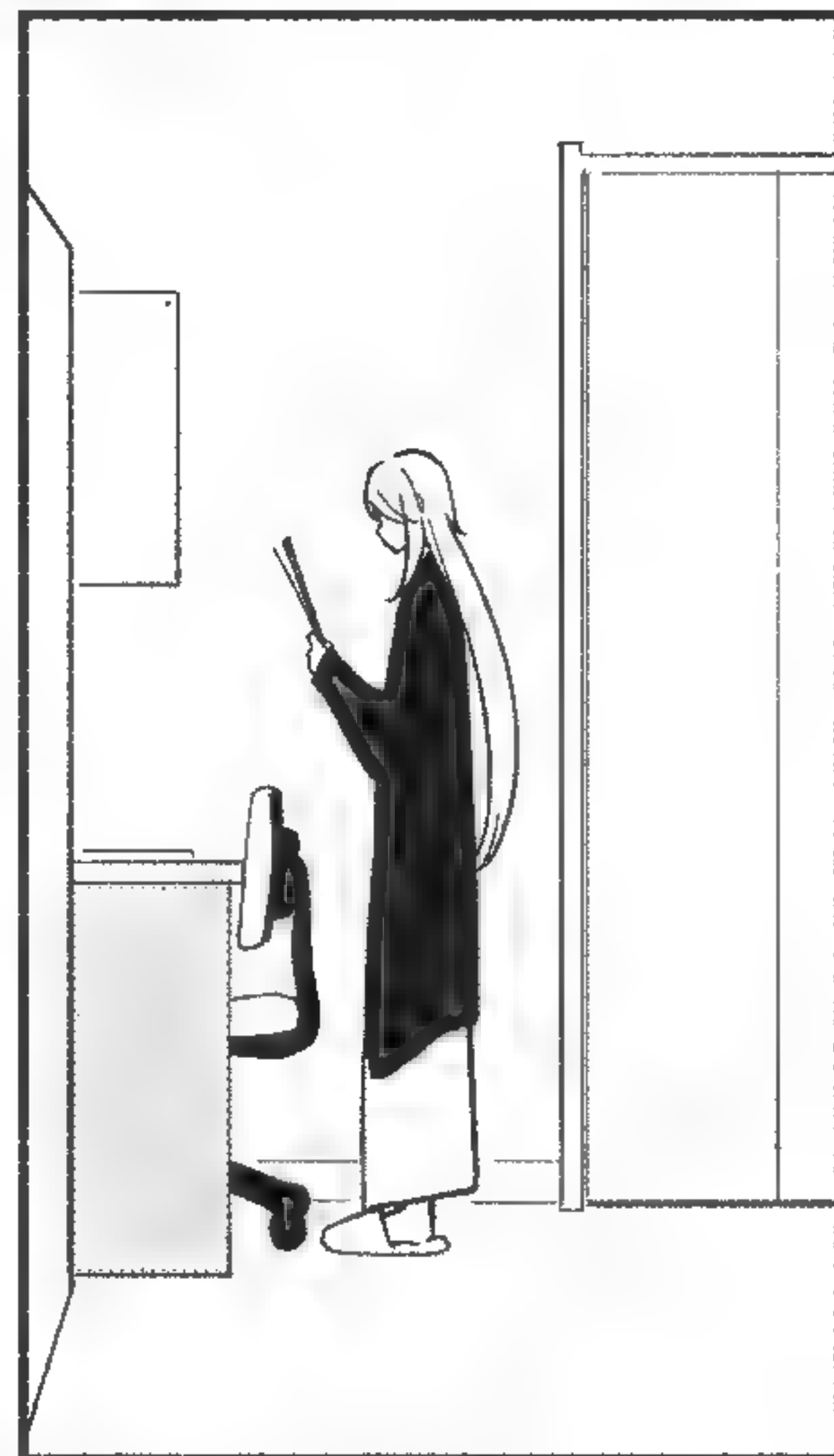
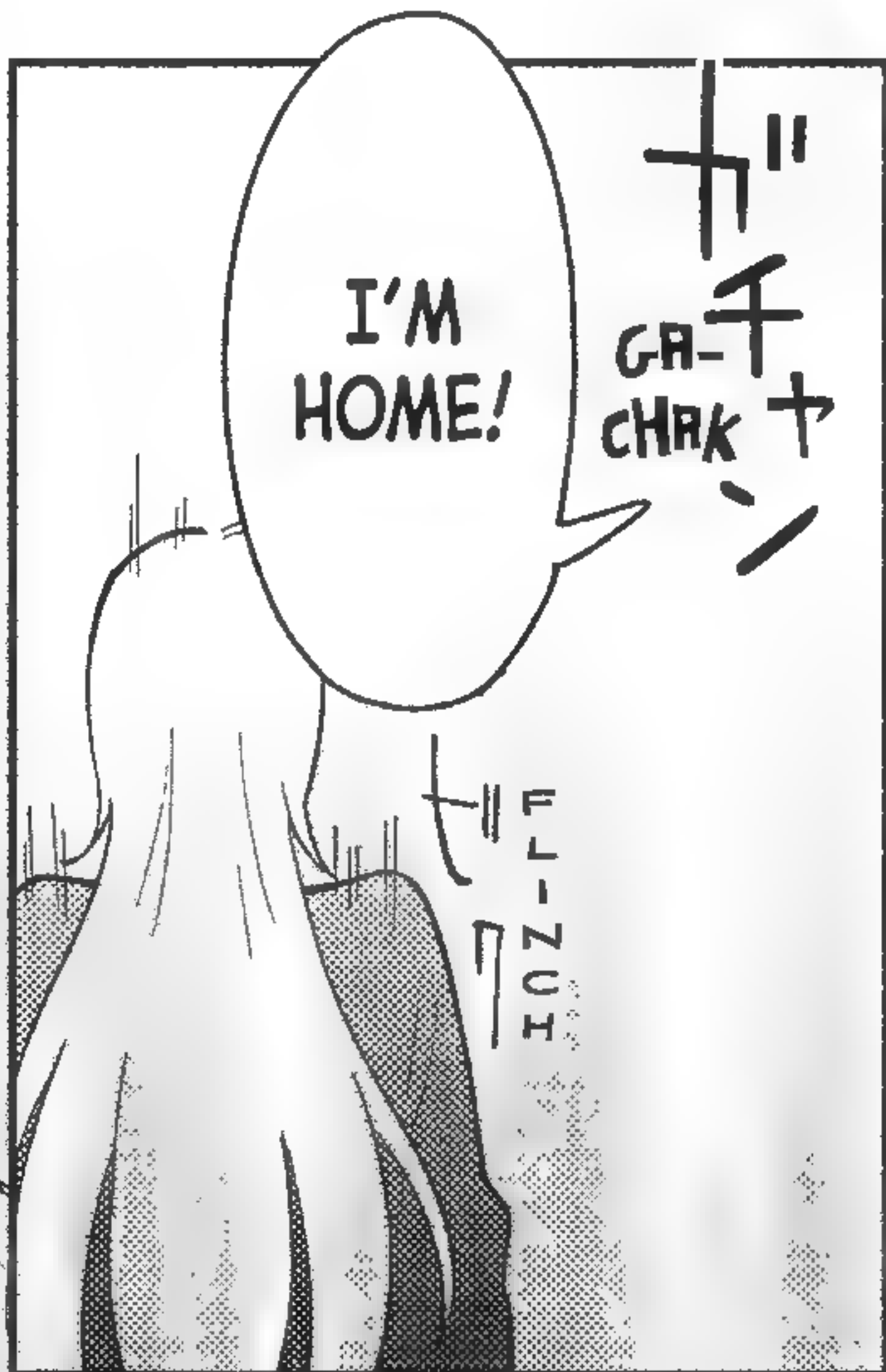
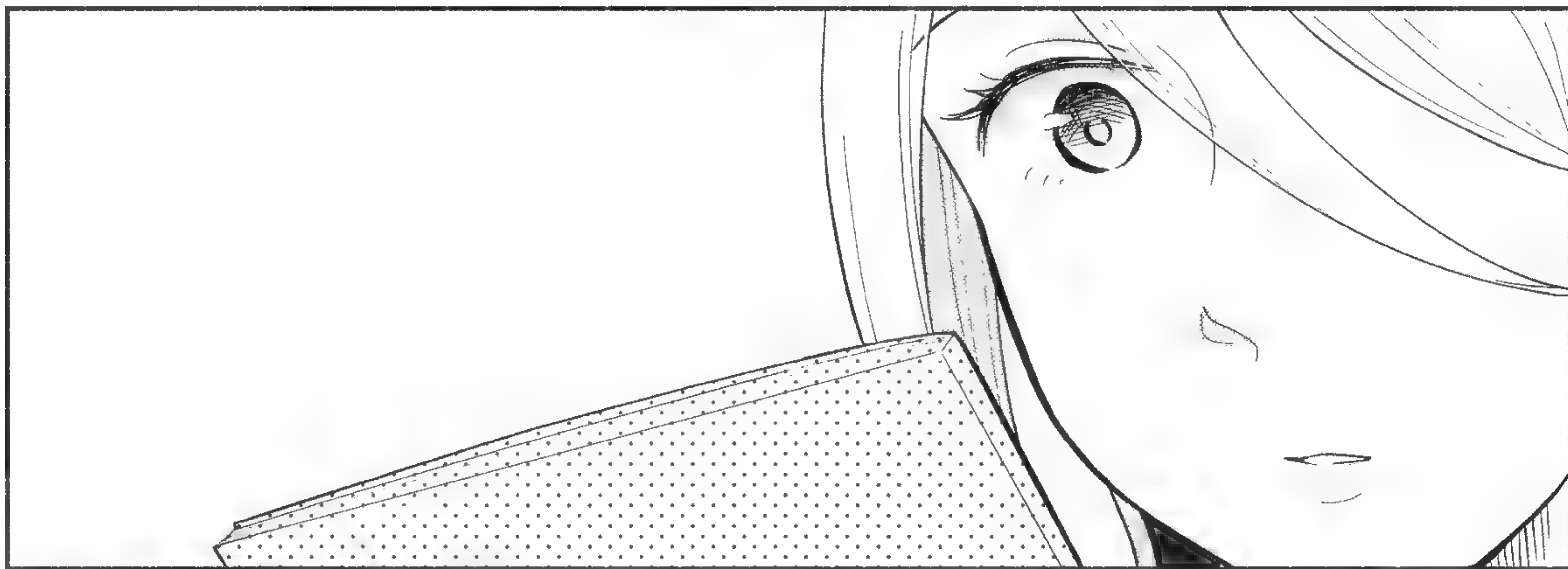
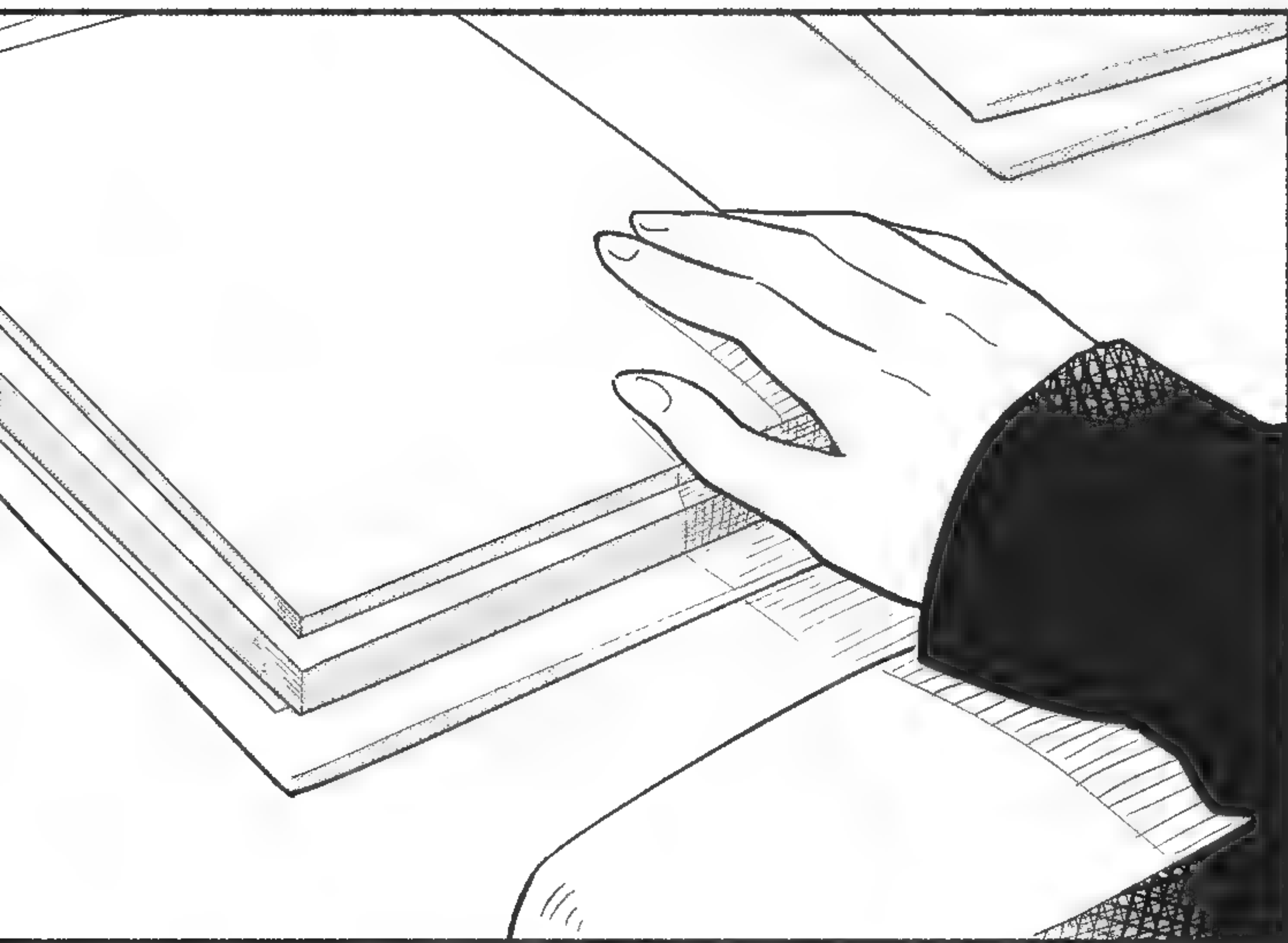
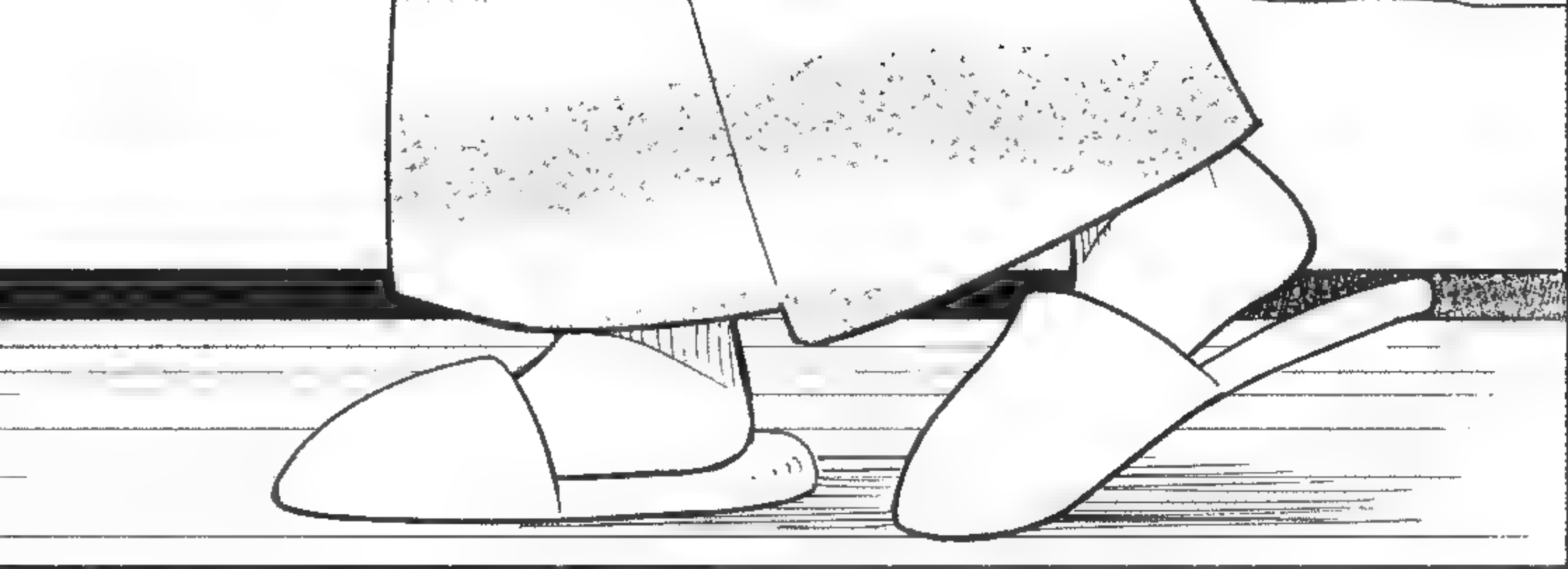


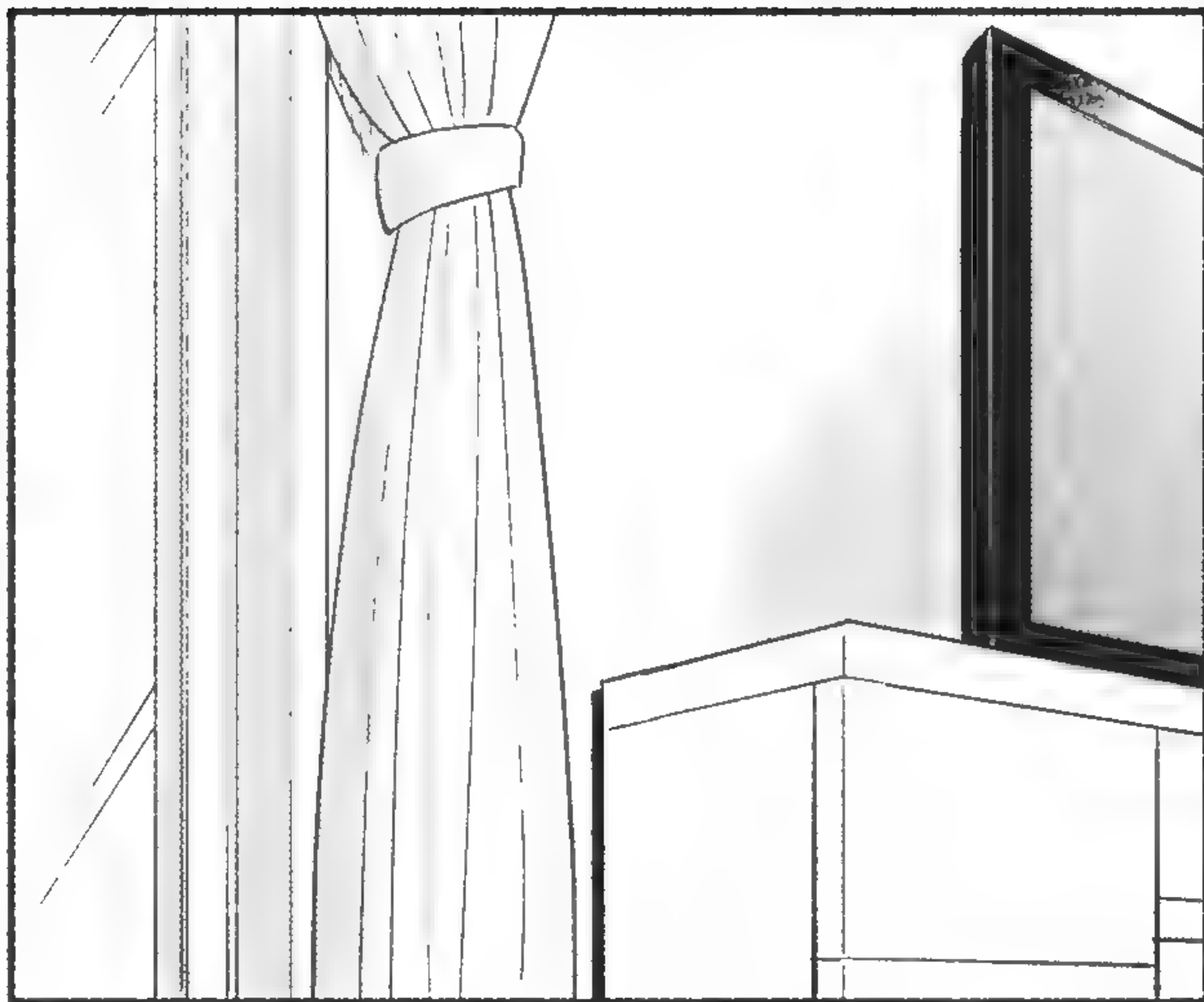
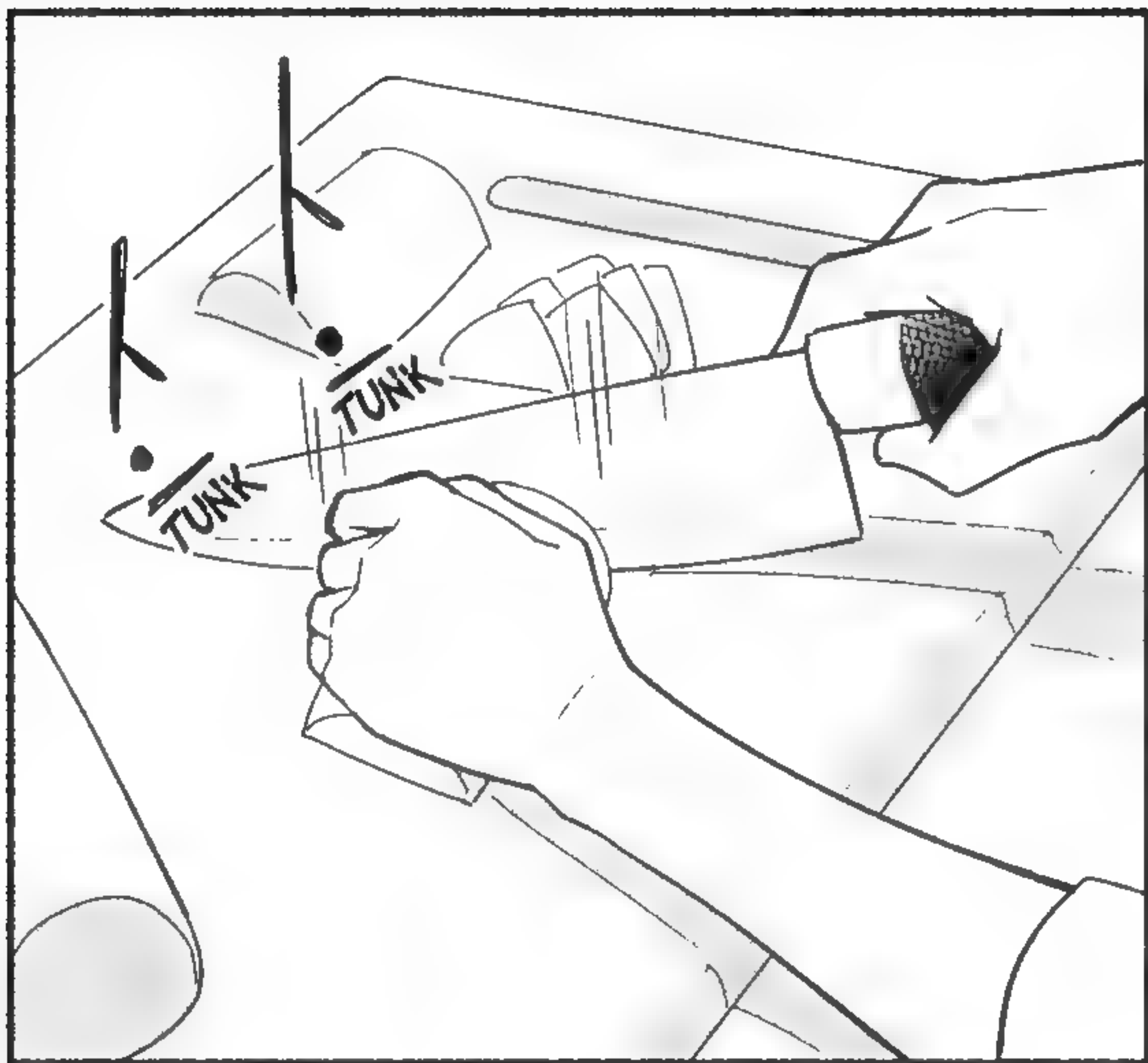
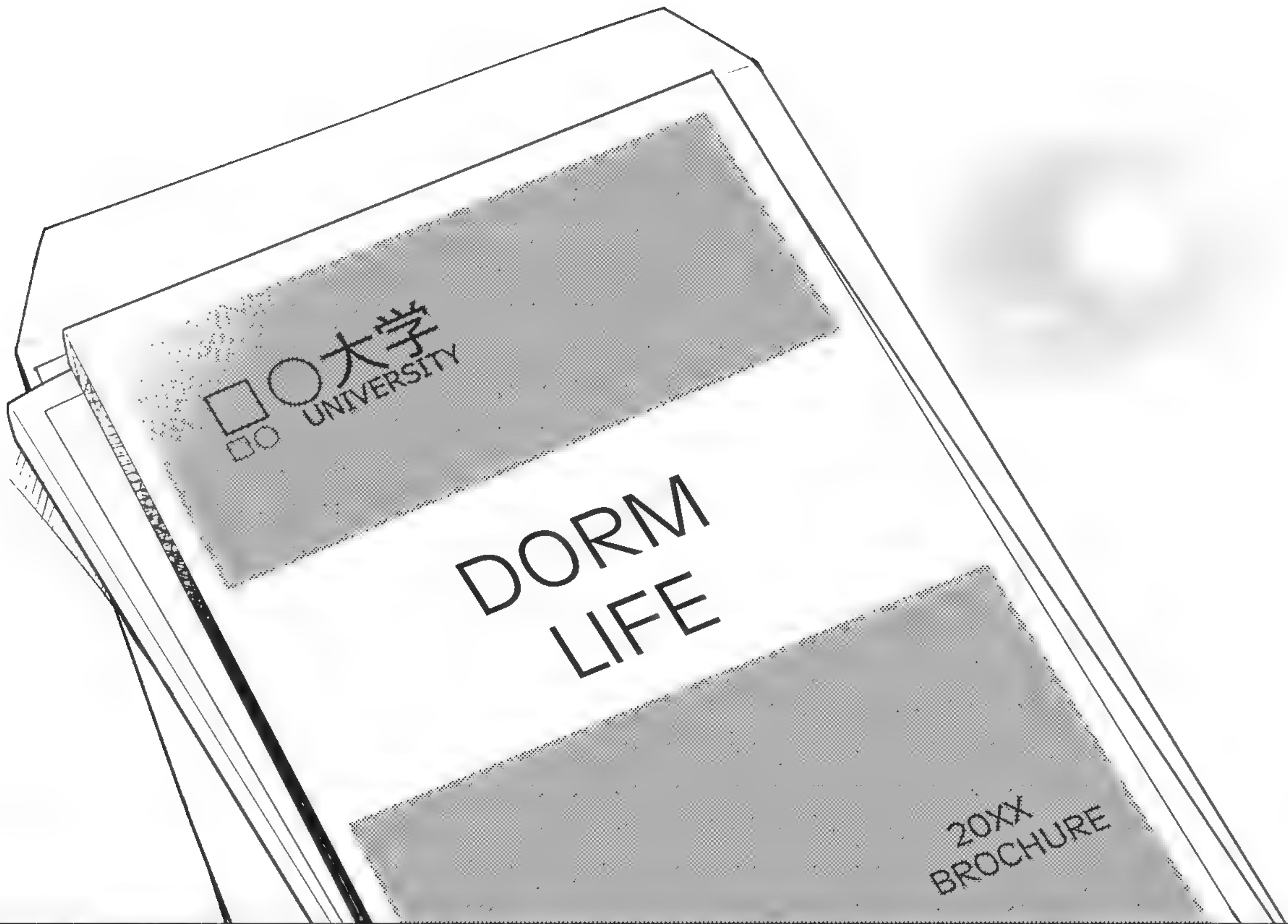


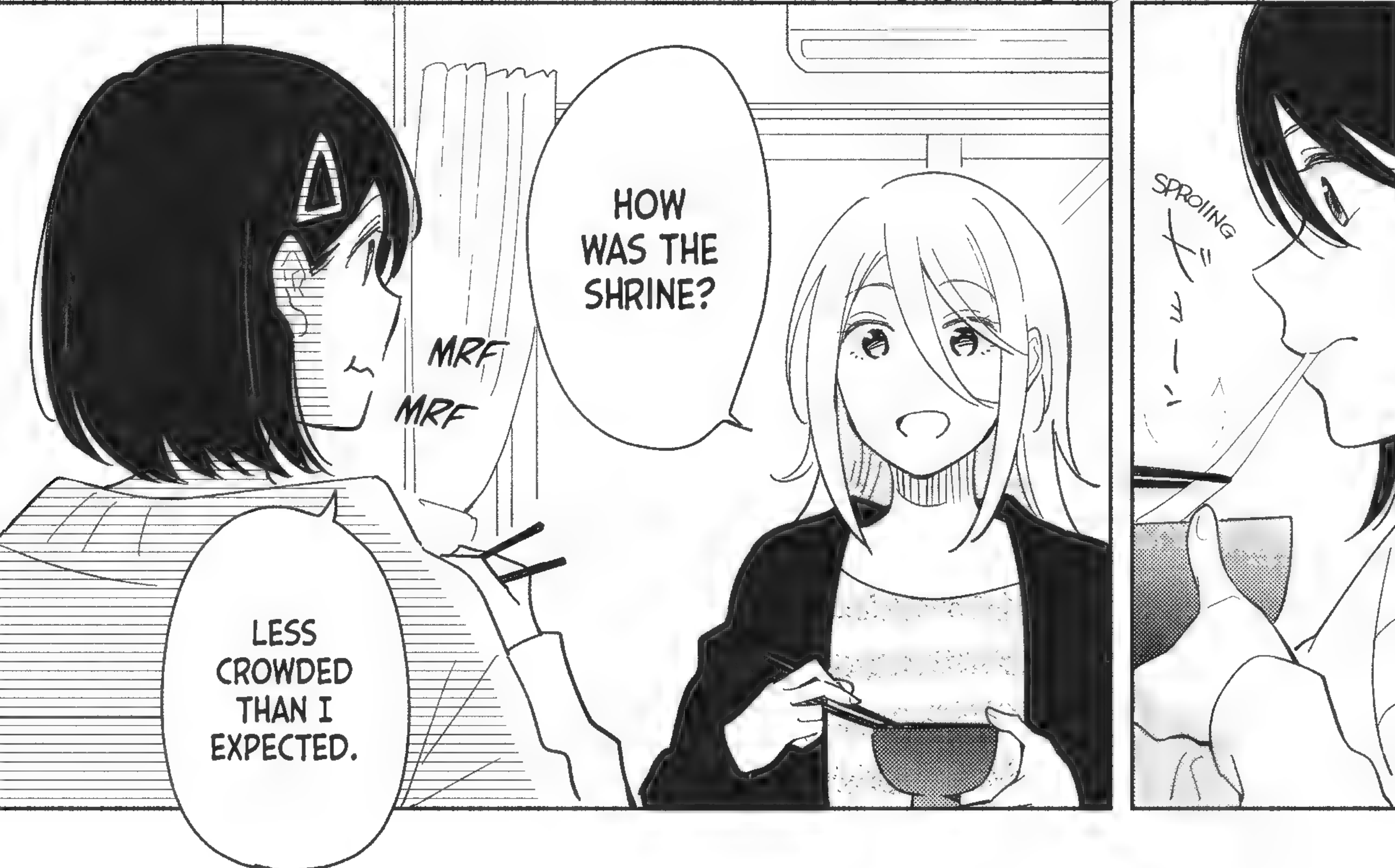
Chapter 15







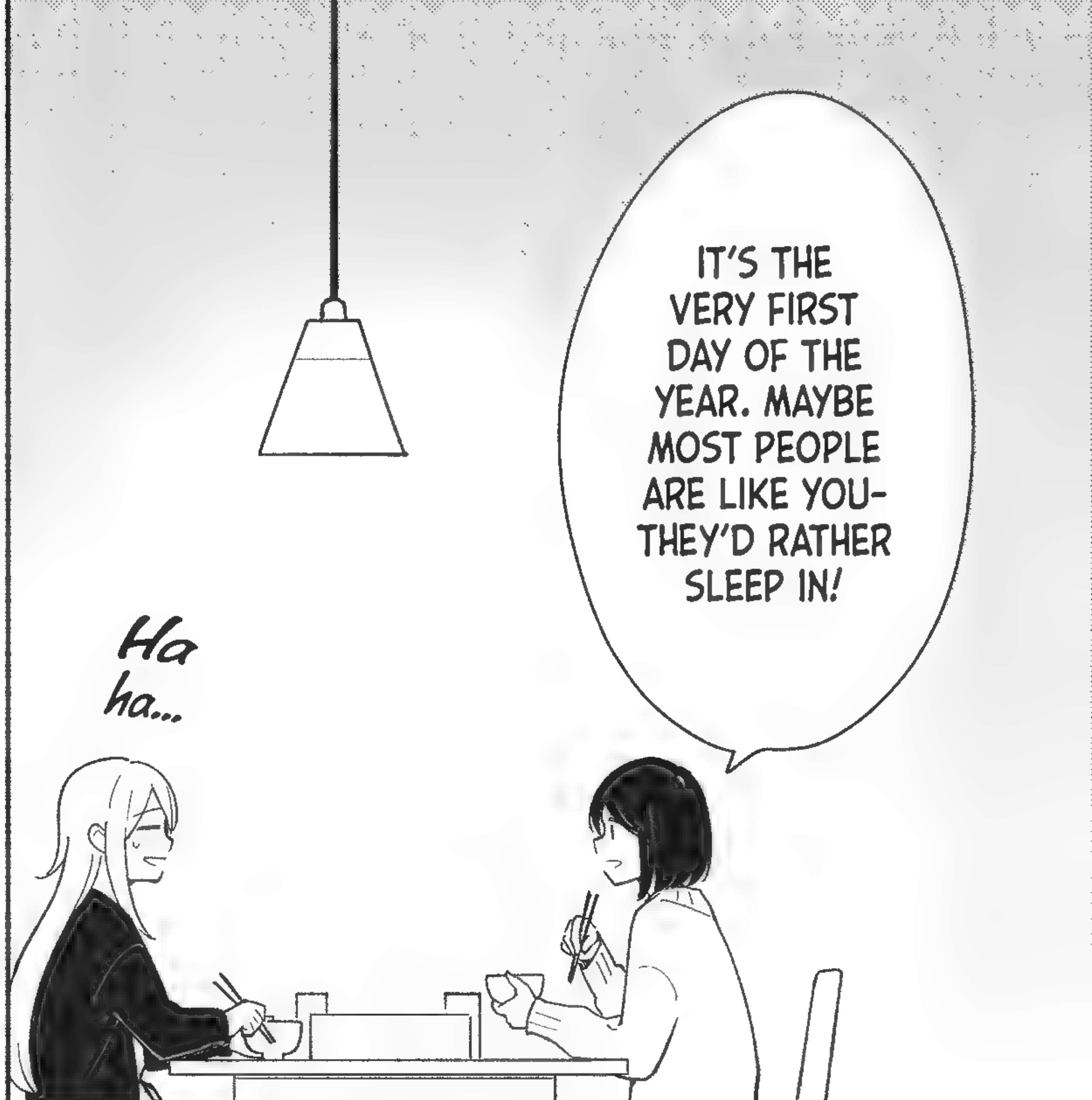






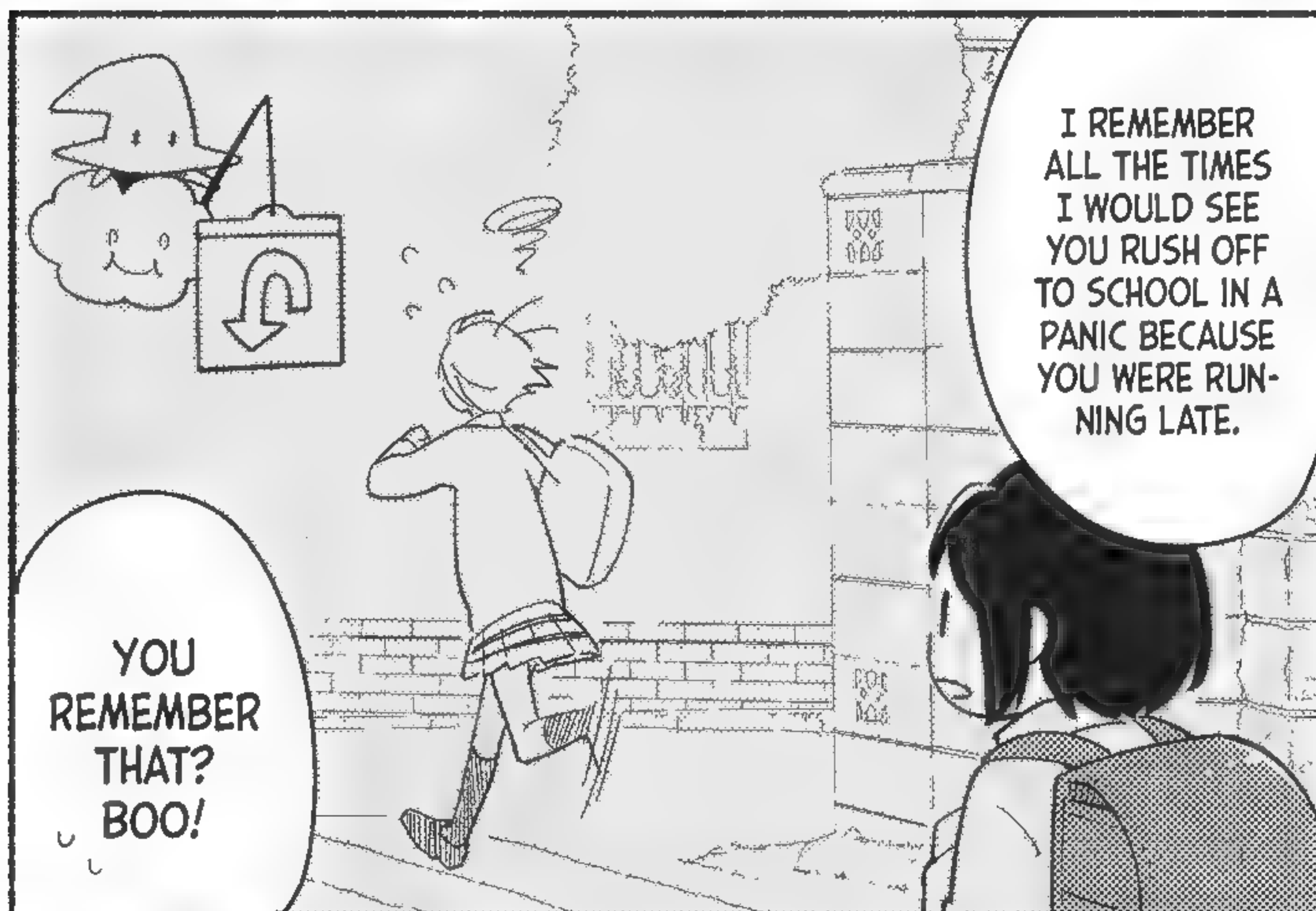
I'M A
LOST
CAUSE...
I'VE BEEN
SO BAD AT
GETTING
UP EARLY
THESE
DAYS.

Sigh



Ha
ha...

IT'S THE
VERY FIRST
DAY OF THE
YEAR. MAYBE
MOST PEOPLE
ARE LIKE YOU-
THEY'D RATHER
SLEEP IN!



I REMEMBER
ALL THE TIMES
I WOULD SEE
YOU RUSH OFF
TO SCHOOL IN A
PANIC BECAUSE
YOU WERE RUN-
NING LATE.

YOU
REMEMBER
THAT?
BOO!



HUH?
I DIDN'T
THINK YOU
WERE EVER
A MORNING
PERSON.



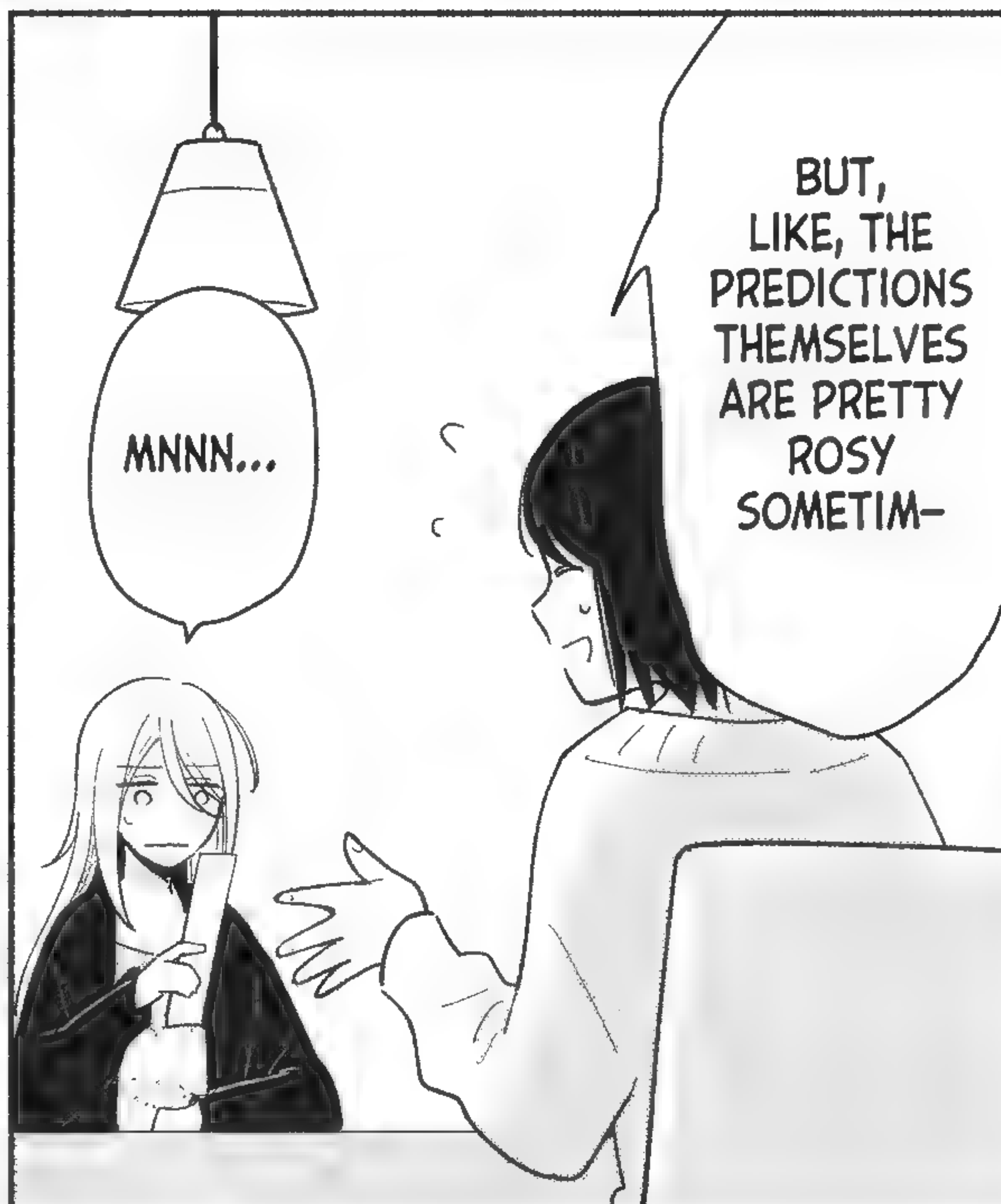
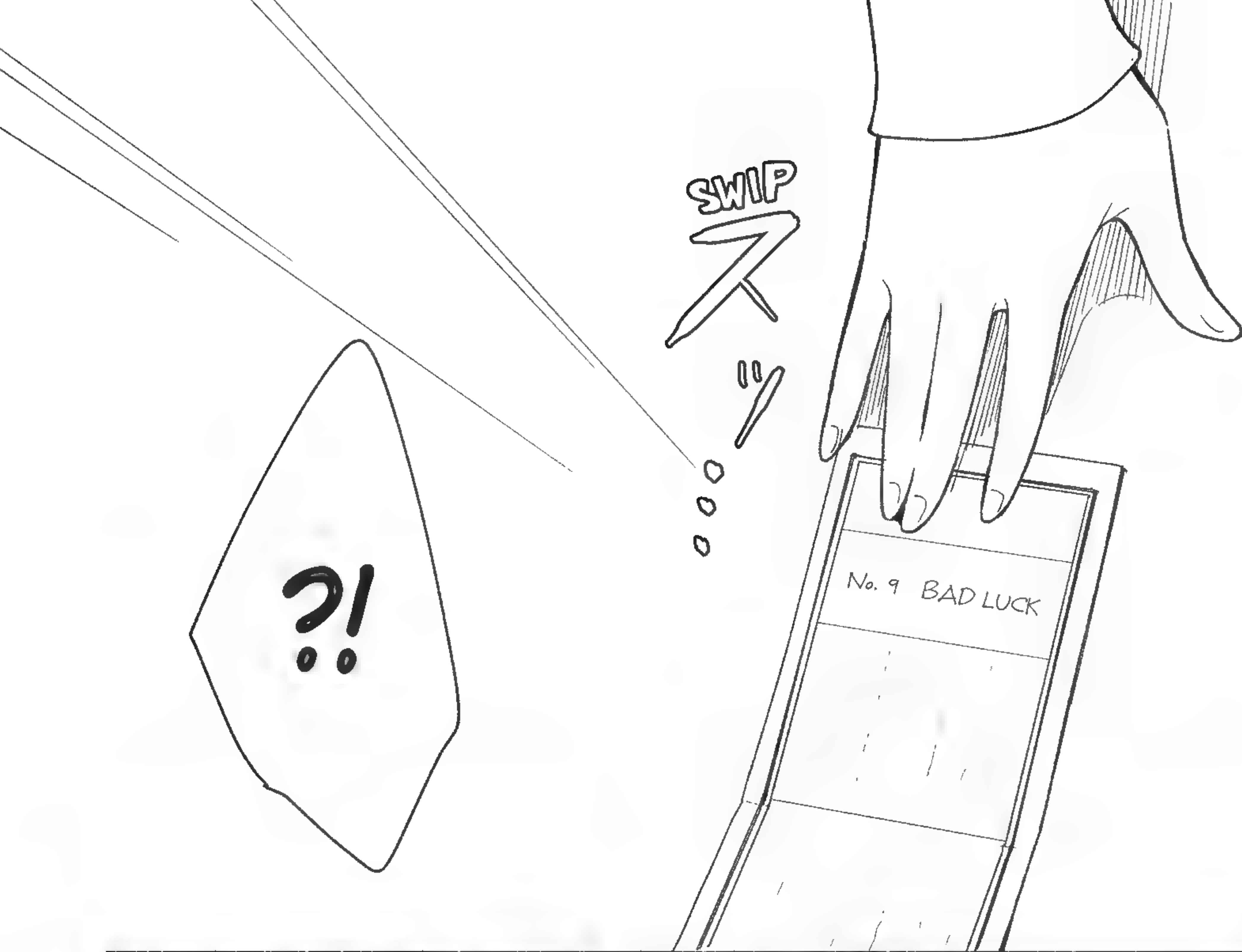
...

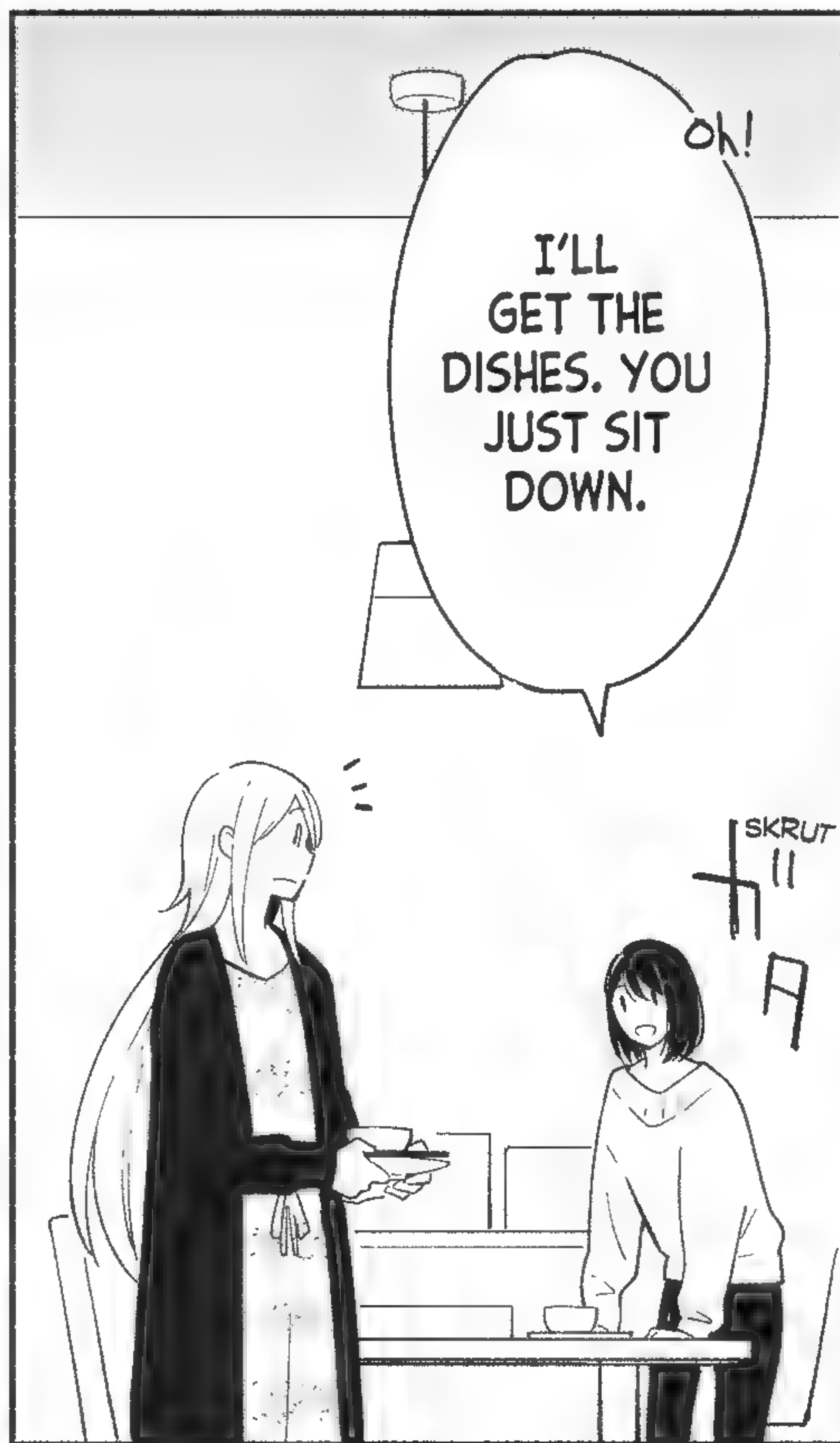


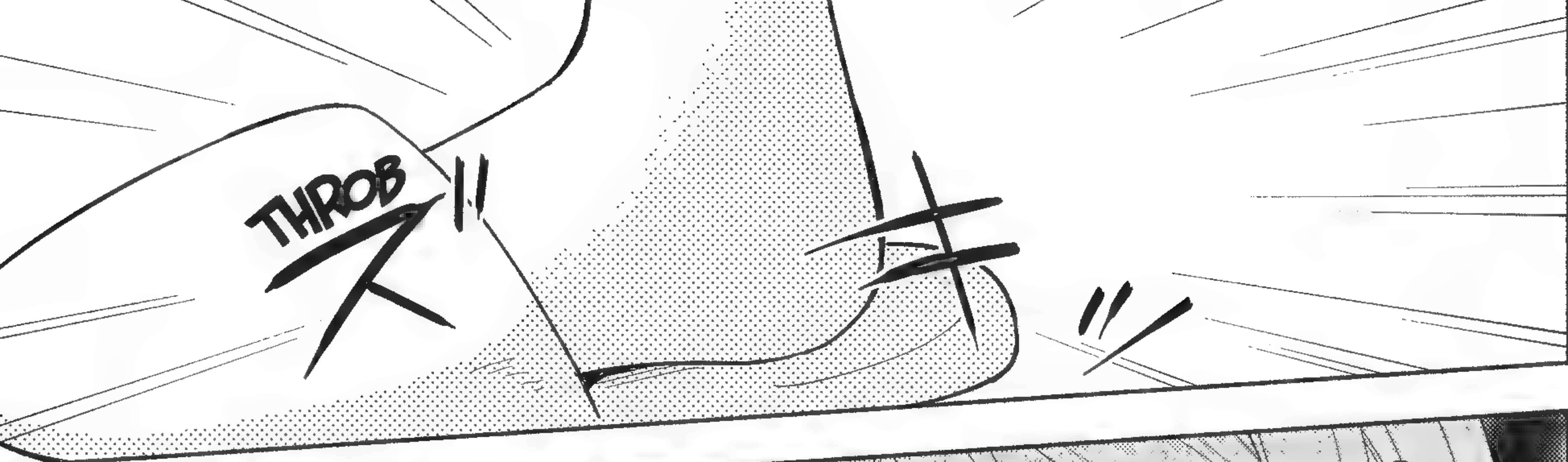
Y-
YEAH,
I DID,
BUT...

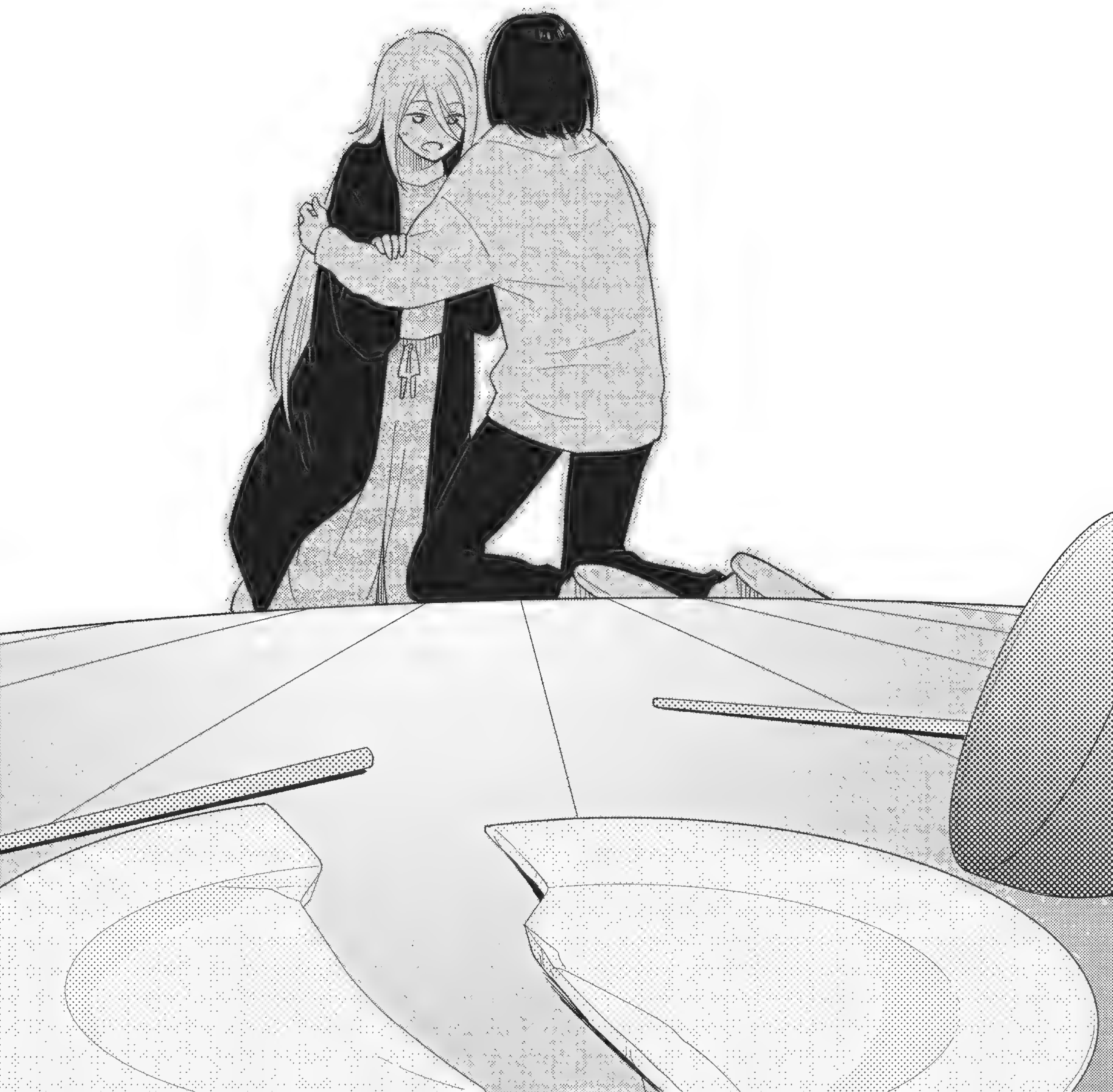
OH-

OH,
YEAH,
DID YOU
GET A
FORTUNE
FOR ME?





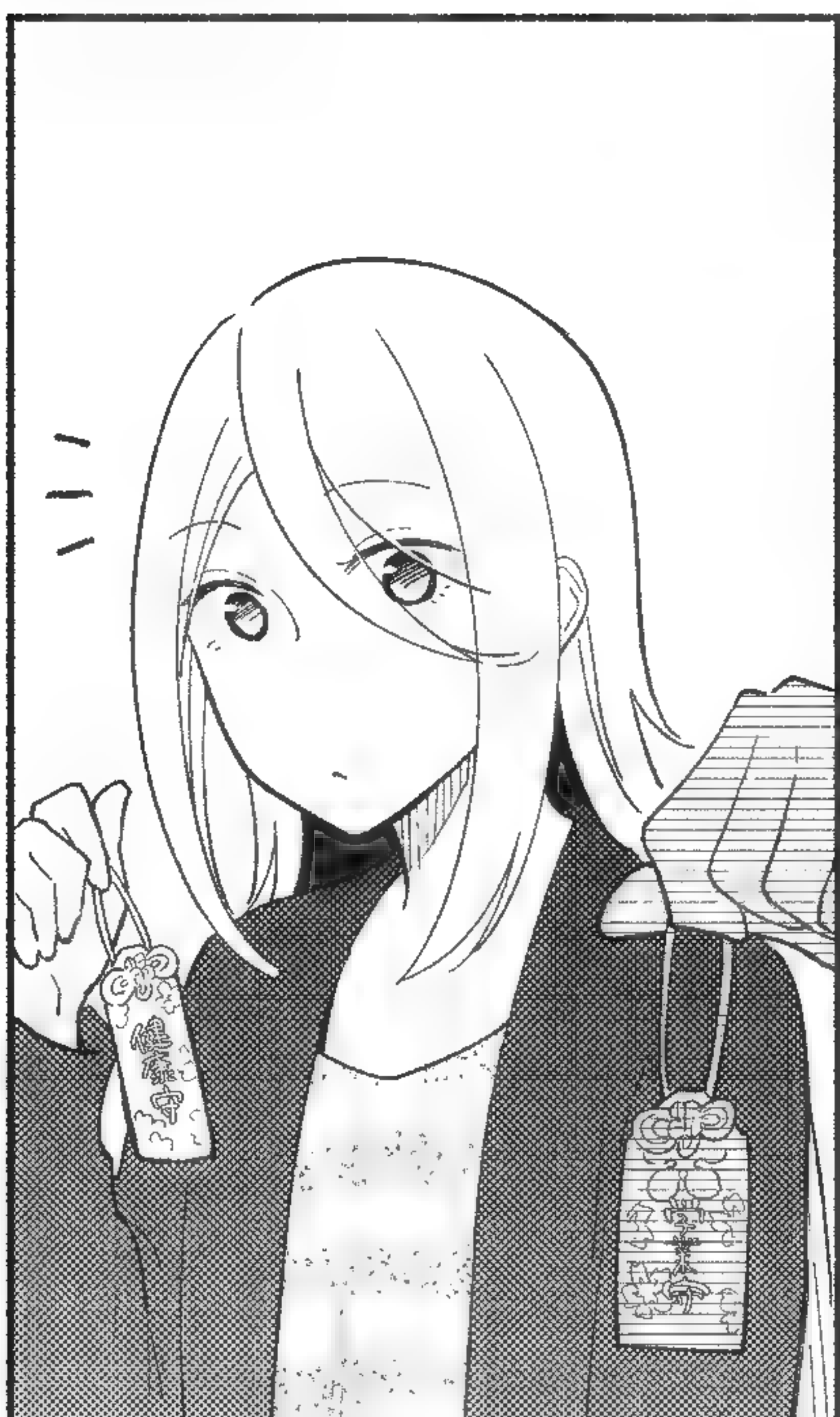








PACKET: "CHARM"
CHARM: "HEALTH"





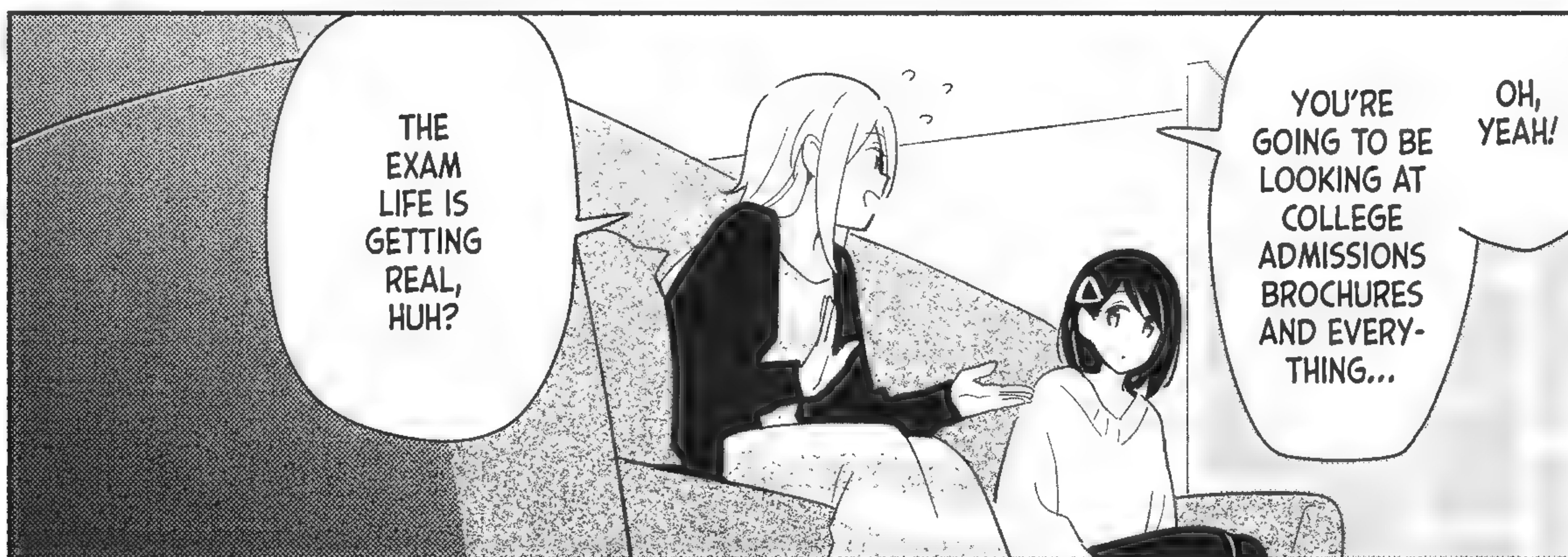
GOSH,
I DON'T
THINK YOU
NEED A
CHARM
FOR—

...



SUCCESS
IN
SCHOOL!

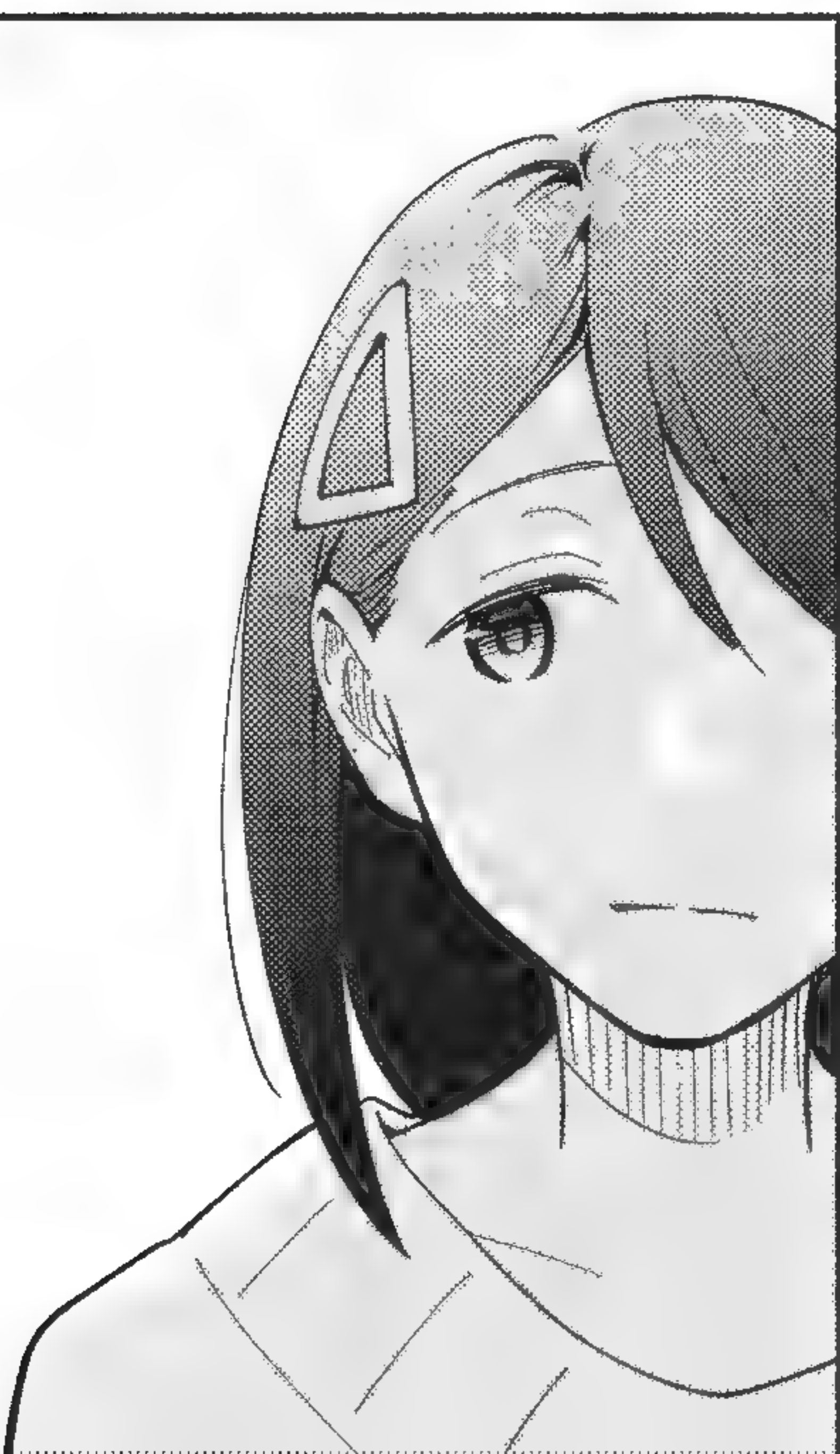
AND WHAT
DID YOU
GET FOR
YOURSELF?



THE
EXAM
LIFE IS
GETTING
REAL,
HUH?

YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
LOOKING AT
COLLEGE
ADMISSIONS
BROCHURES
AND EVERY-
THING...

OH,
YEAH!



ER...

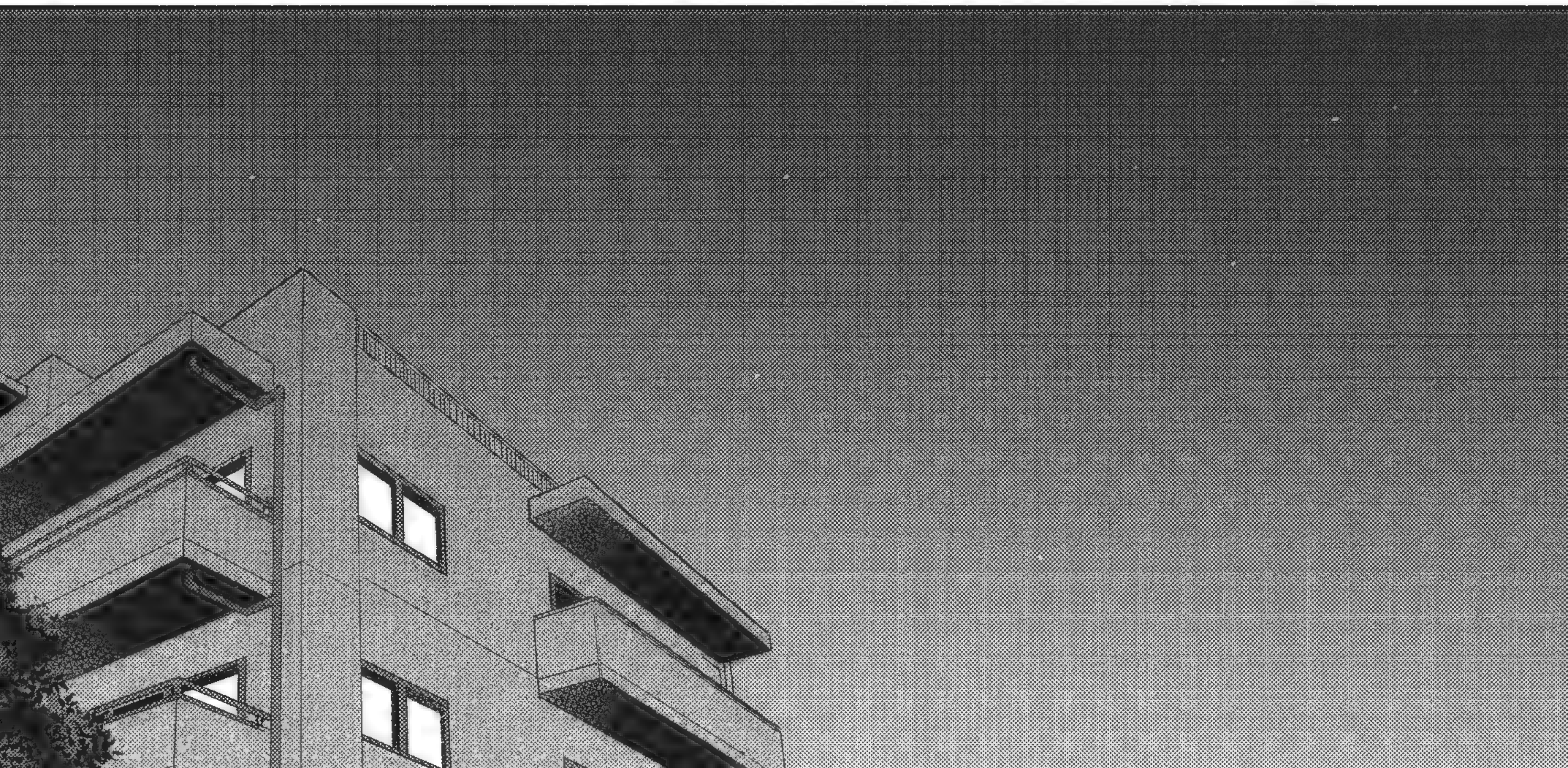
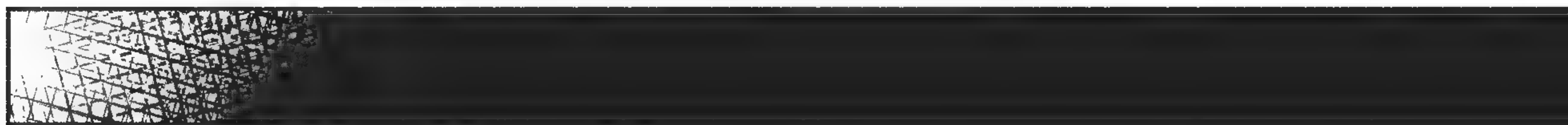
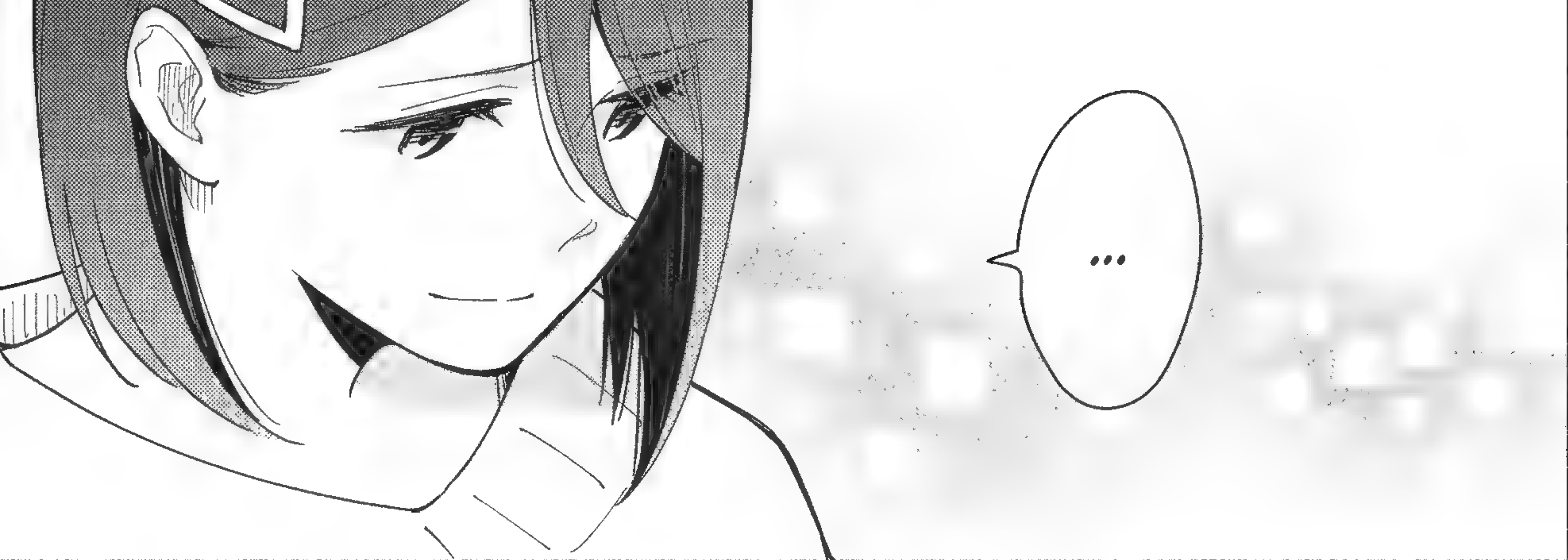
SORRY.
I DIDN'T
MEAN
TO.

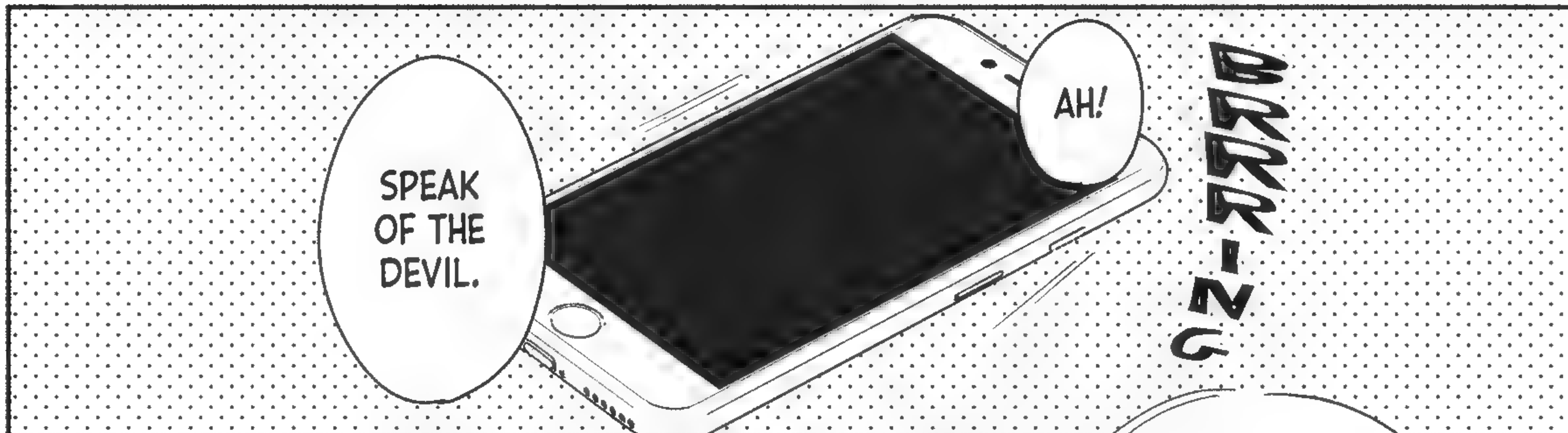
IT WAS
SITTING
OUT THERE
ON YOUR
DESK.

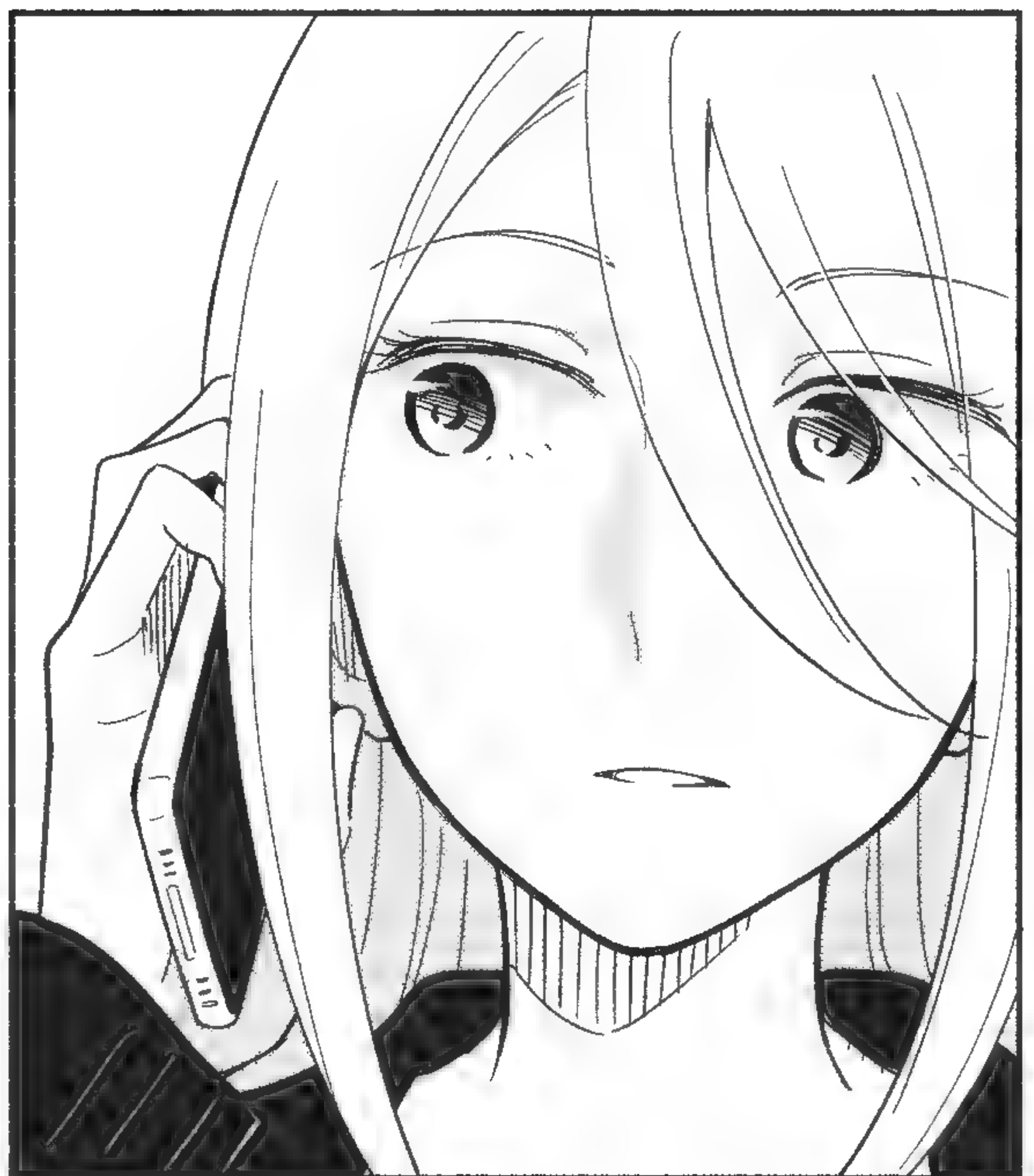
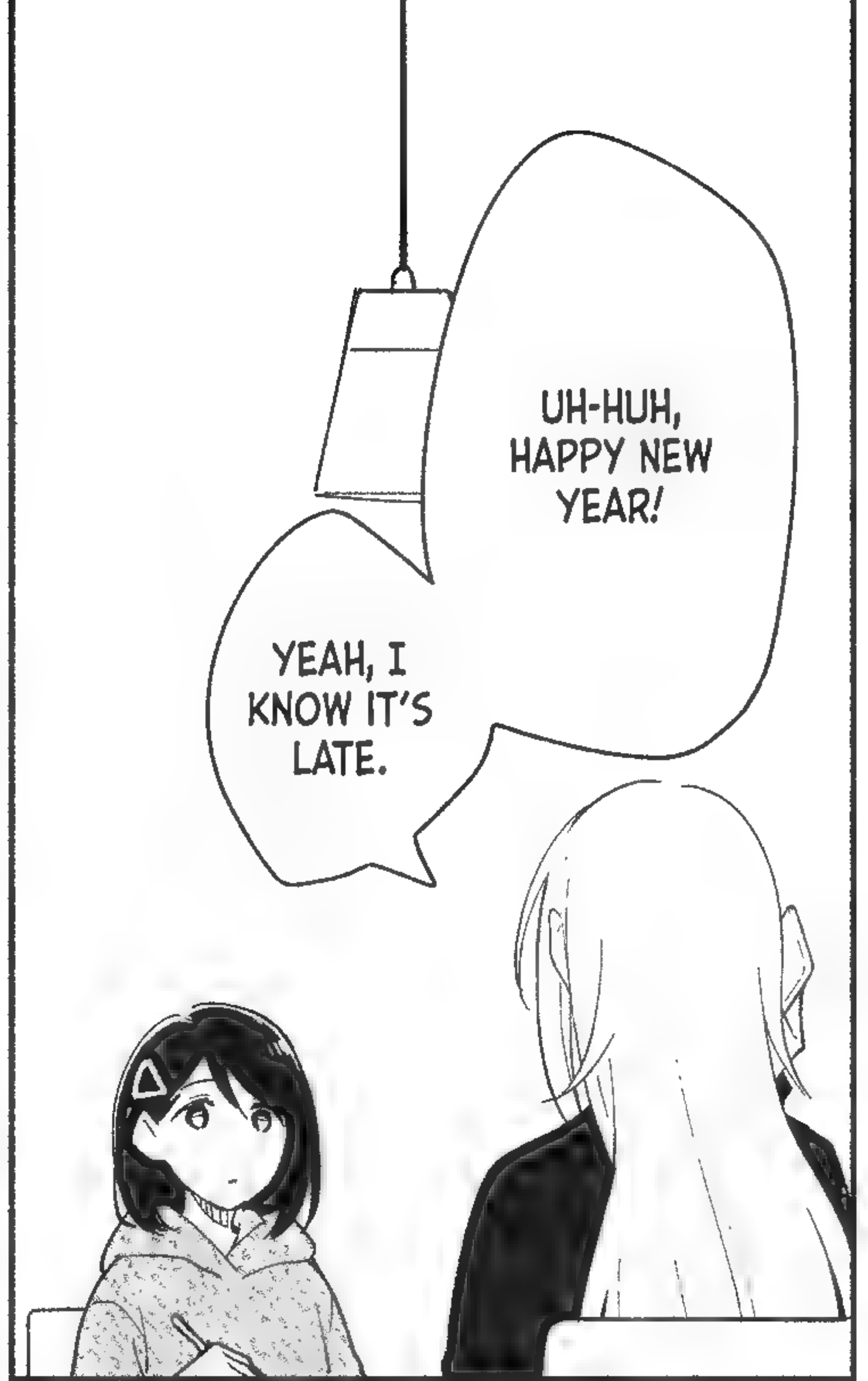
SO...
DOES
THIS MEAN
YOU SAW
THE ONE
IN MY
ROOM?

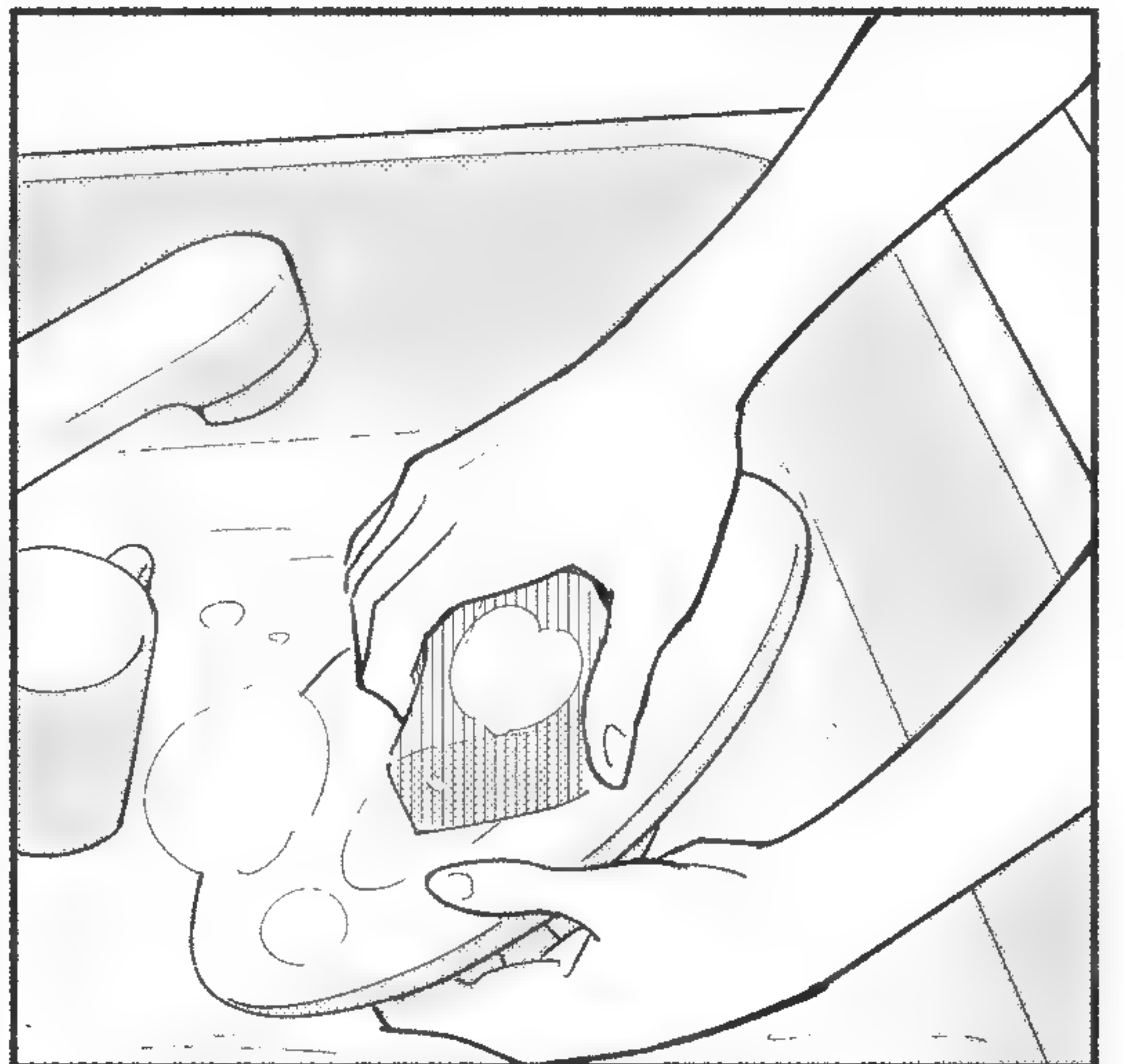
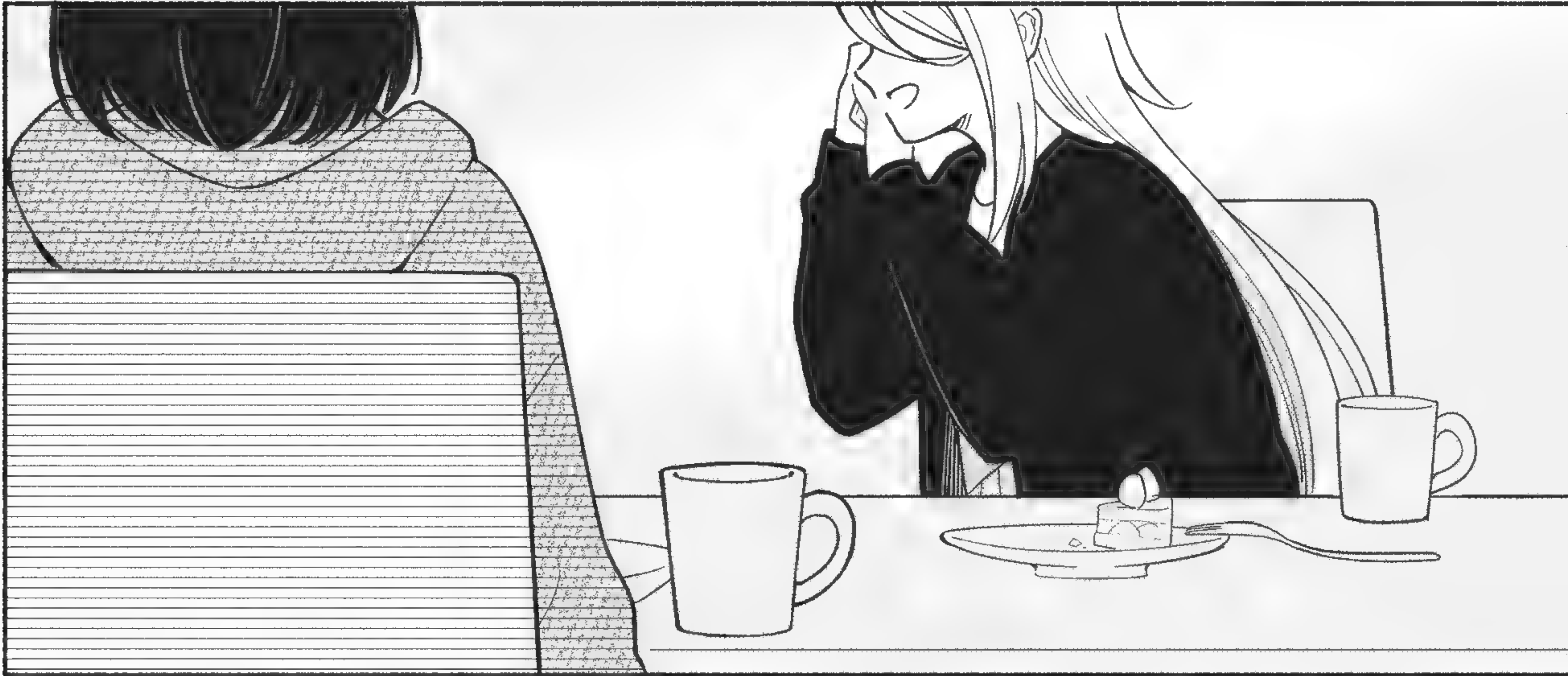
UH-
HUH.

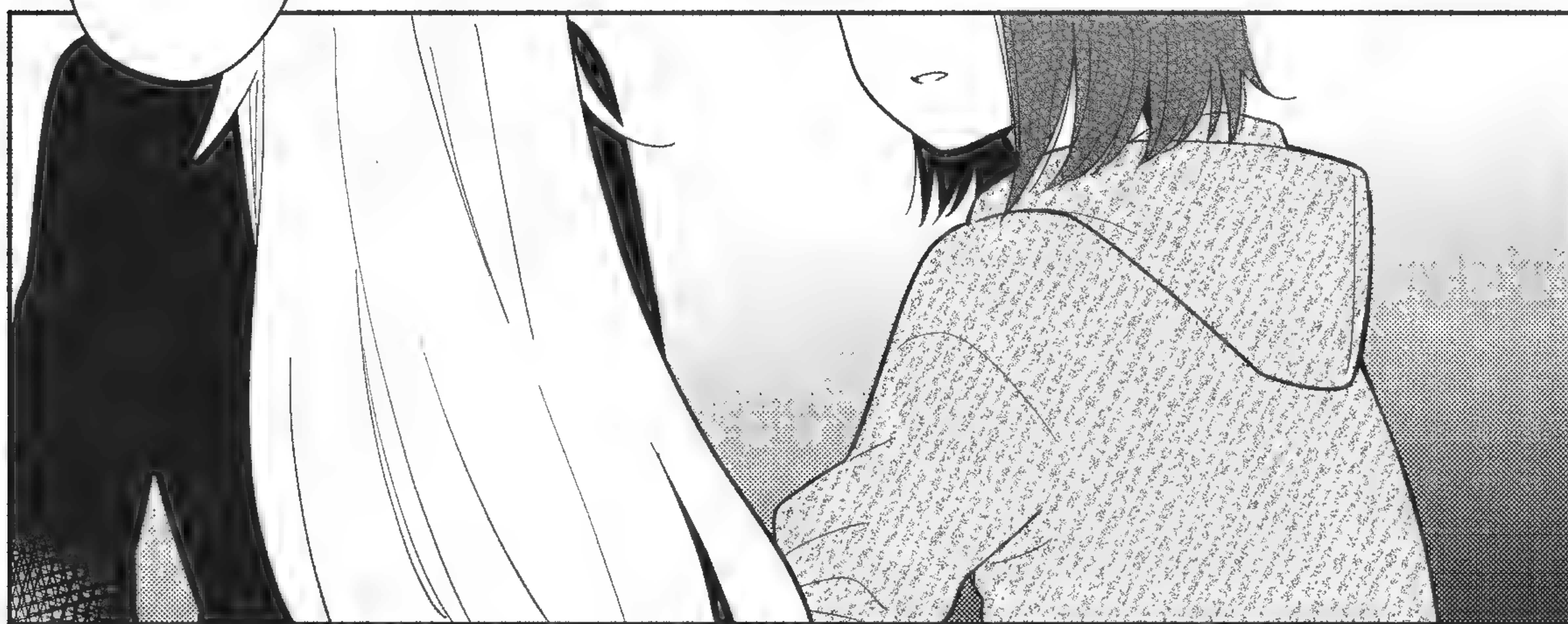
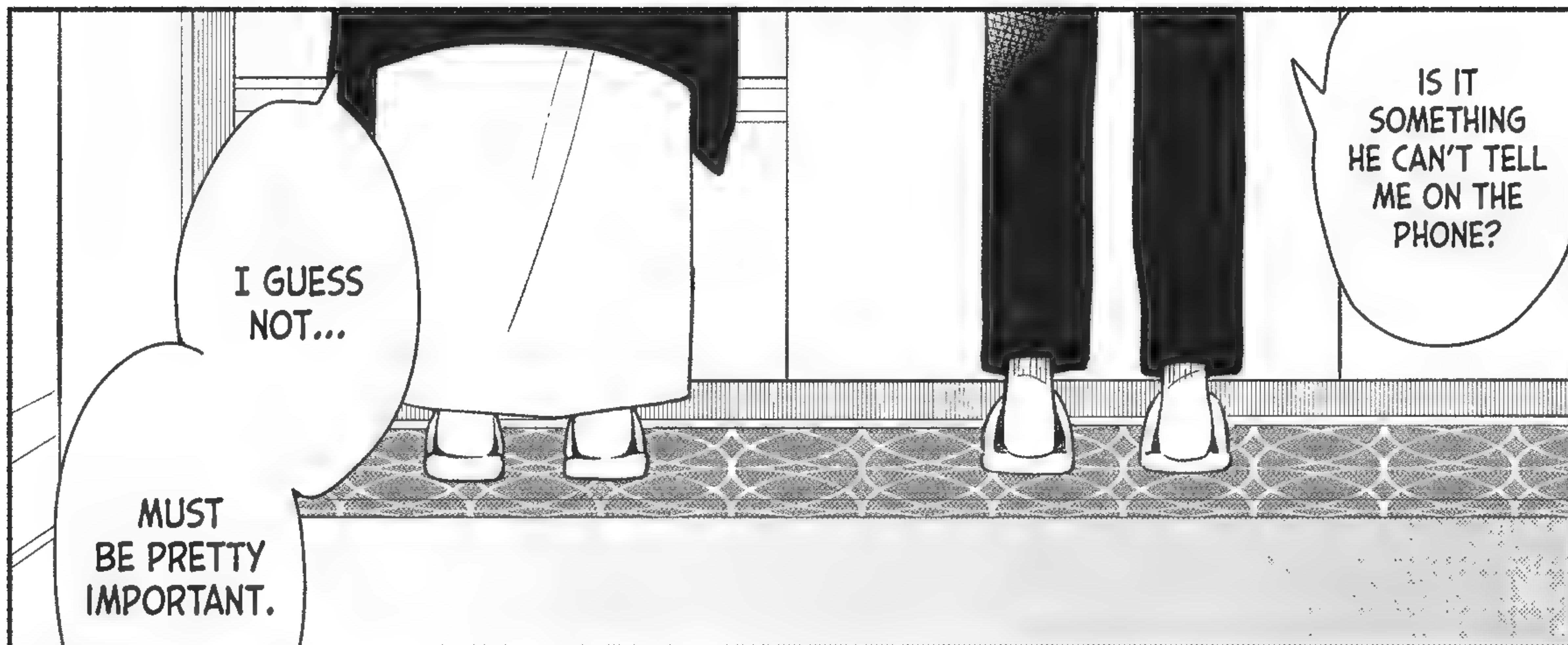




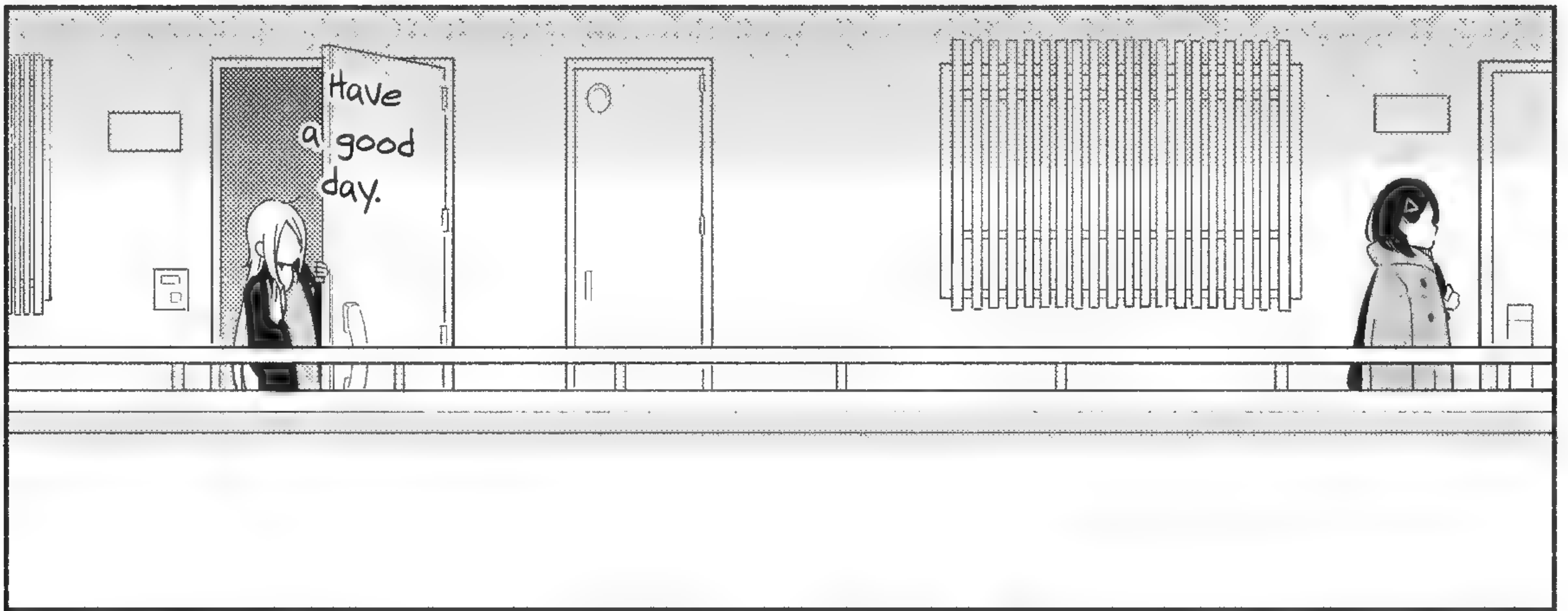




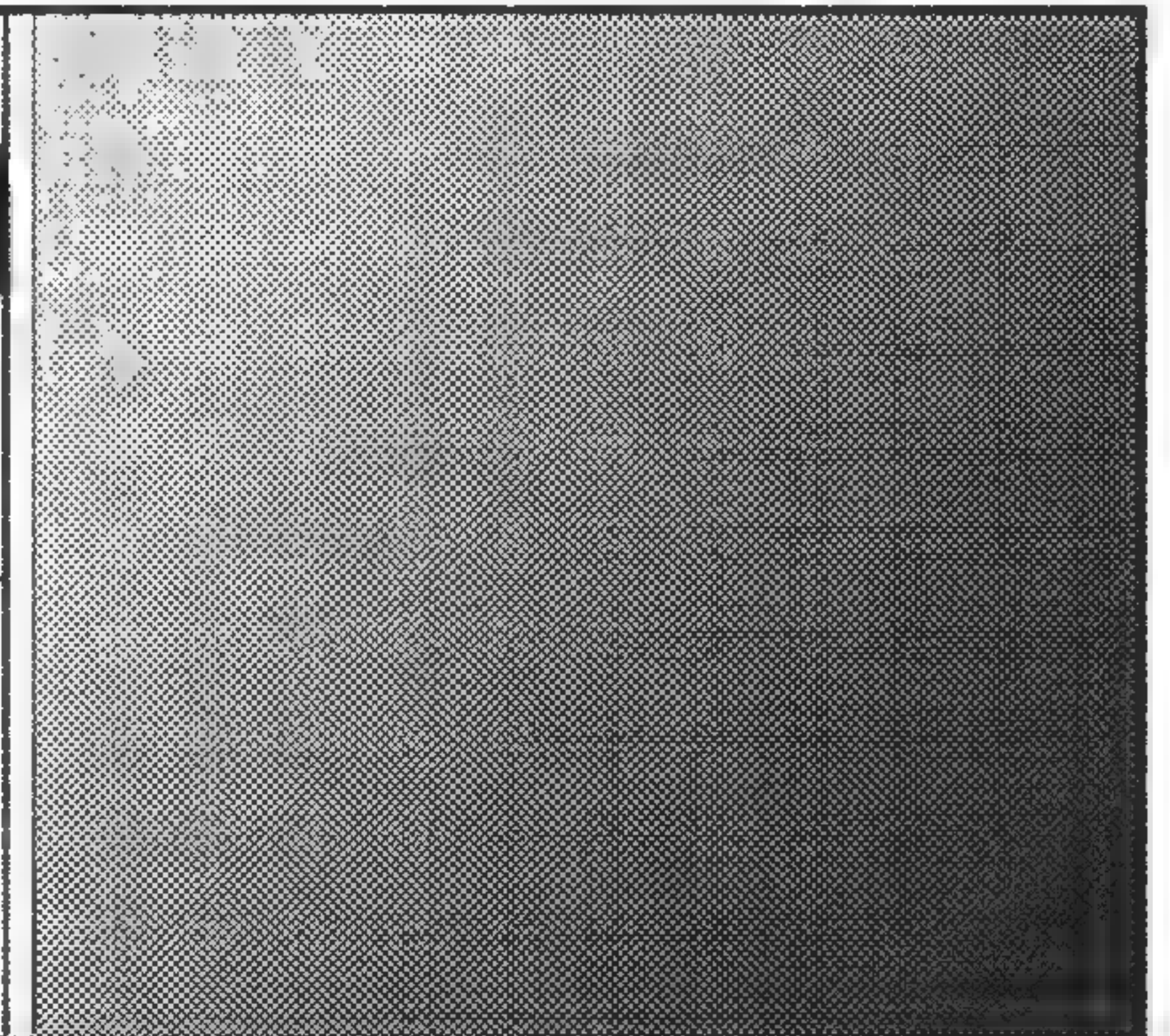


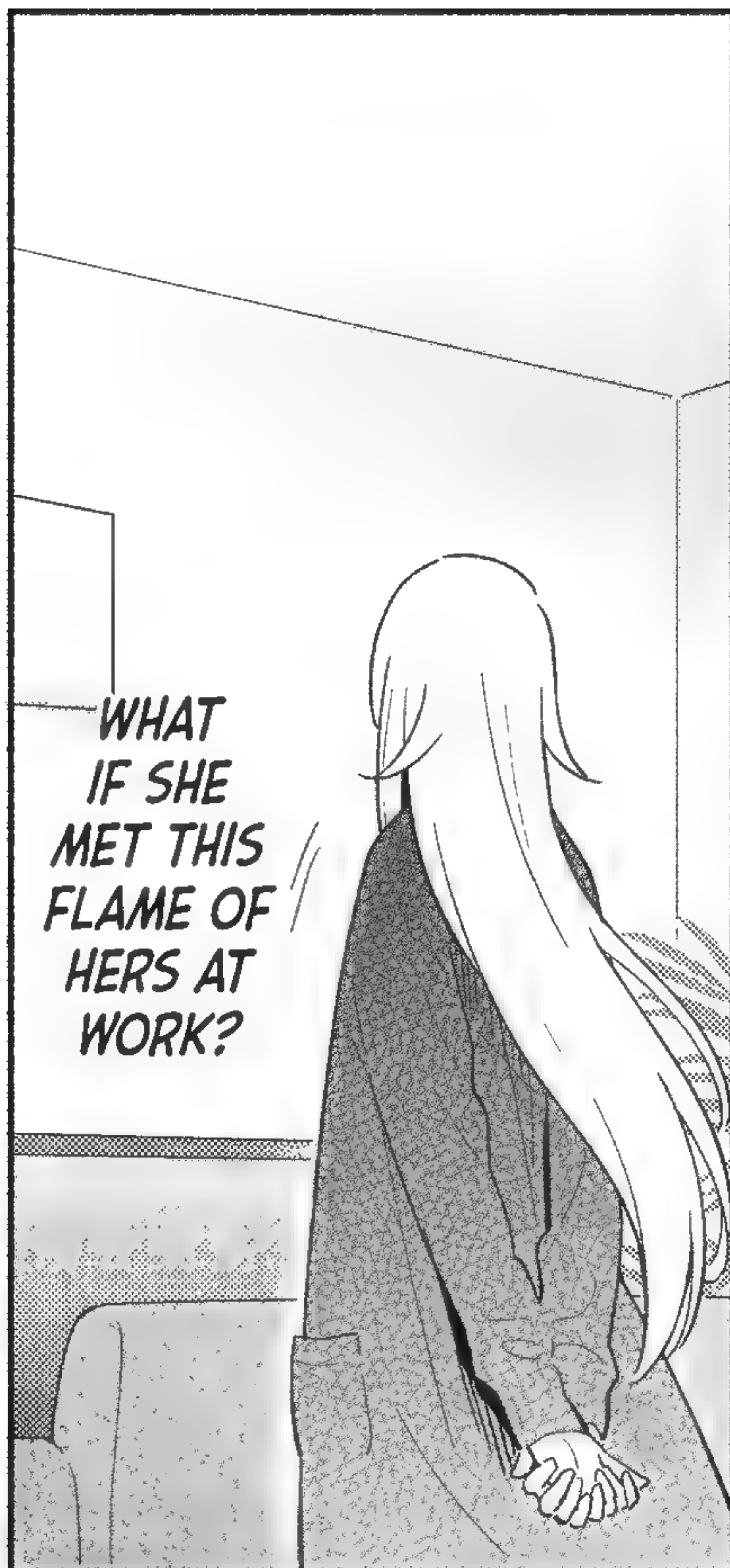






UTA-CHAN
SEEMS A
LITTLE MORE...
GROWN UP,
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.

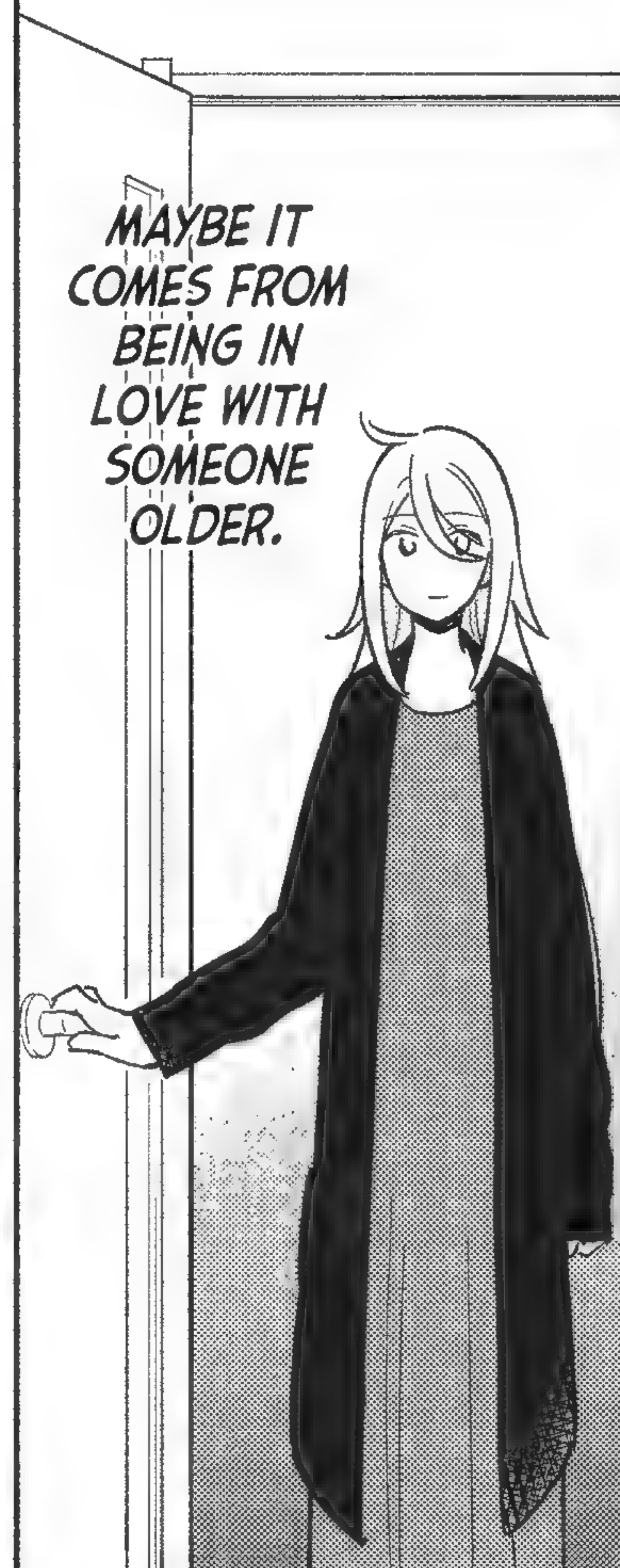




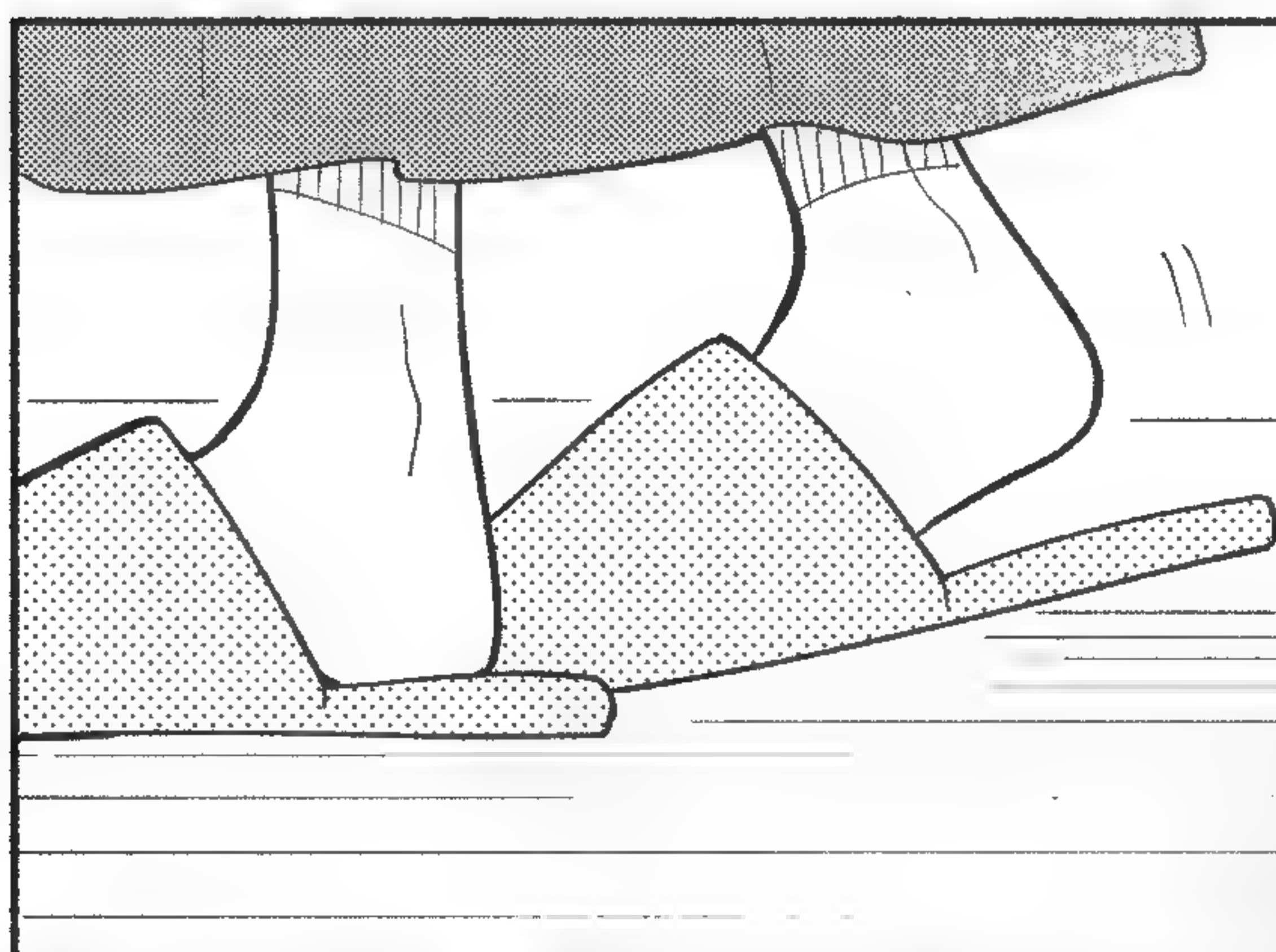
WHAT
IF SHE
MET THIS
FLAME OF
HERS AT
WORK?



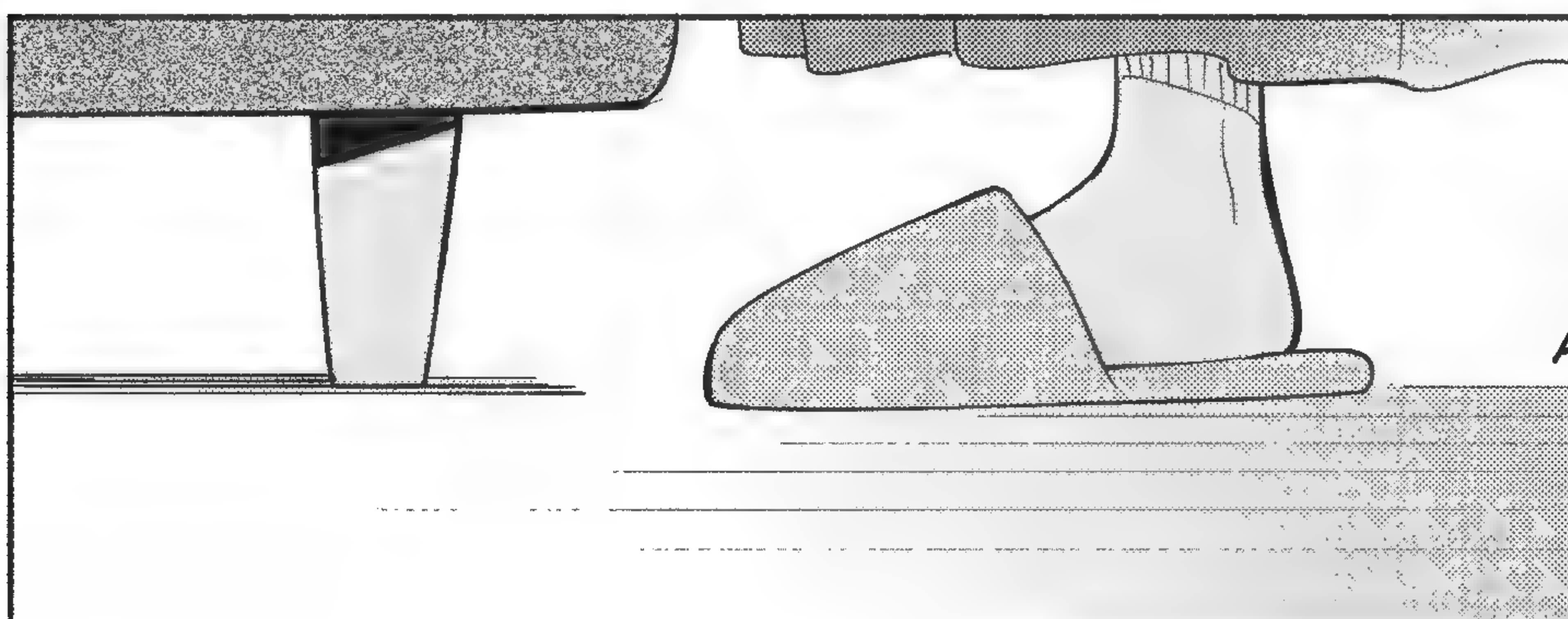
YOU
KNOW...



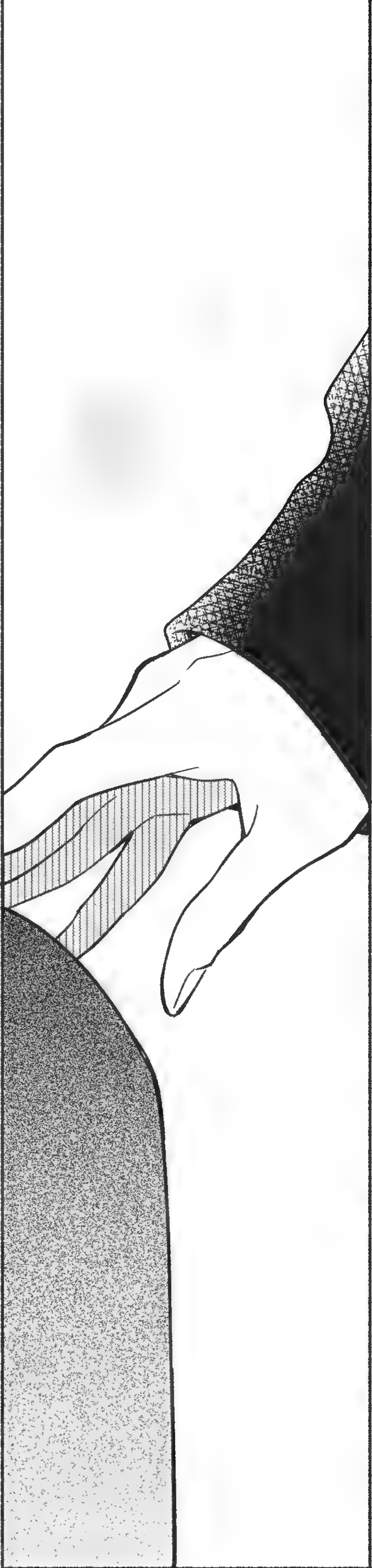
MAYBE IT
COMES FROM
BEING IN
LOVE WITH
SOMEONE
OLDER.



LOTS OF
GREAT, WELL-
ESTABLISHED
PEOPLE COME
BY THERE.



BUT, WAIT...
WHAT IF IT'S
A TEACHER AT
SCHOOL...?



THEN WE
COULD'VE
STAYED
TOGETHER
FOREVER.
AS A FAMILY.

HOW
GRATEFUL
I'D BE...
IF ONLY MY
WHAT-IFS
WERE TRUE...

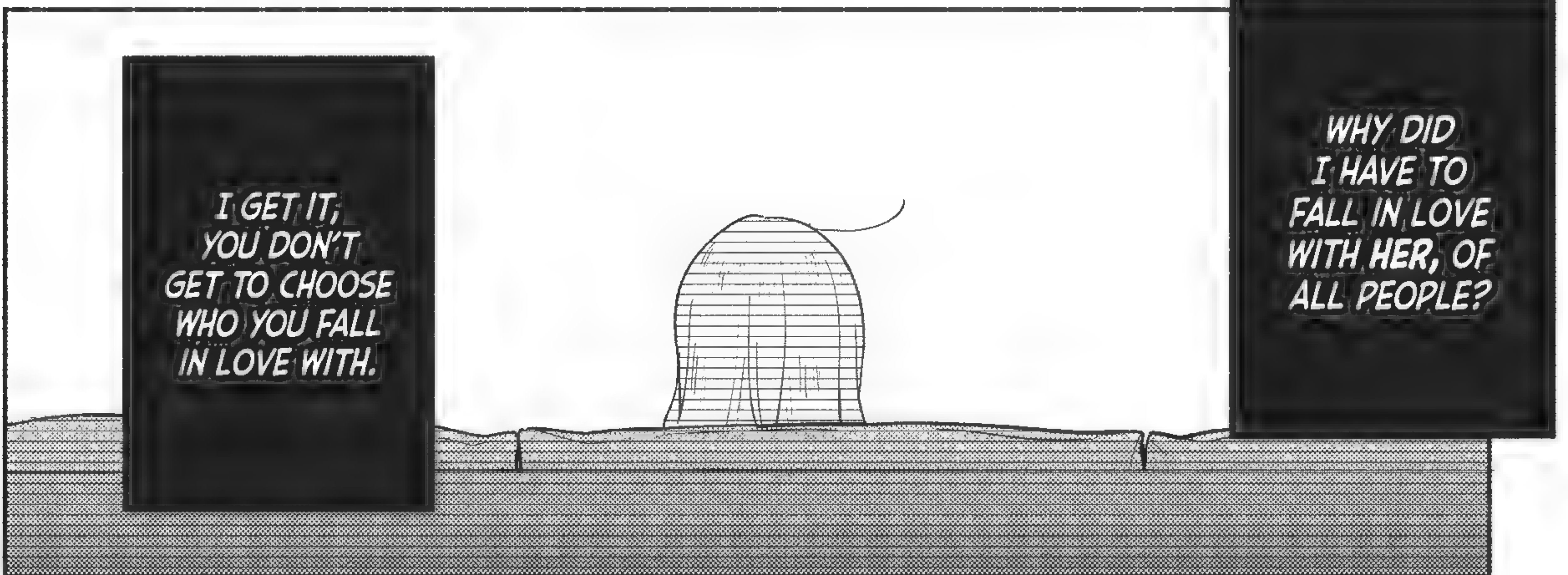
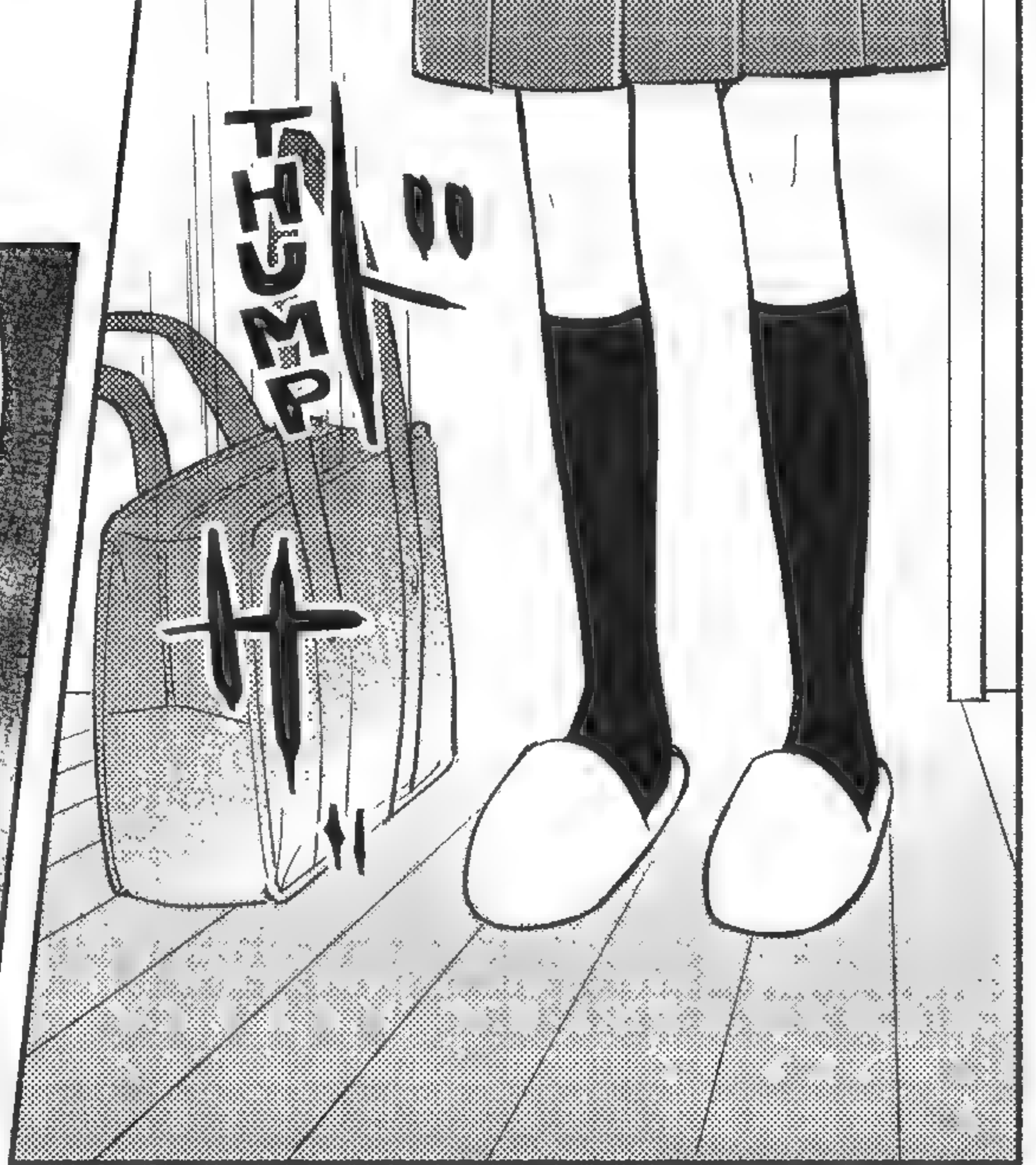




*I AM
LIVING
WITH A
GIRL WHO
LOVES
ME.*

To be continued.

*If I Could
Reach You*





BUT DON'T
YOU THINK
IT'S TIME
YOU LEARNED
TO FEND FOR
YOURSELF
A LITTLE,
CHLOE?



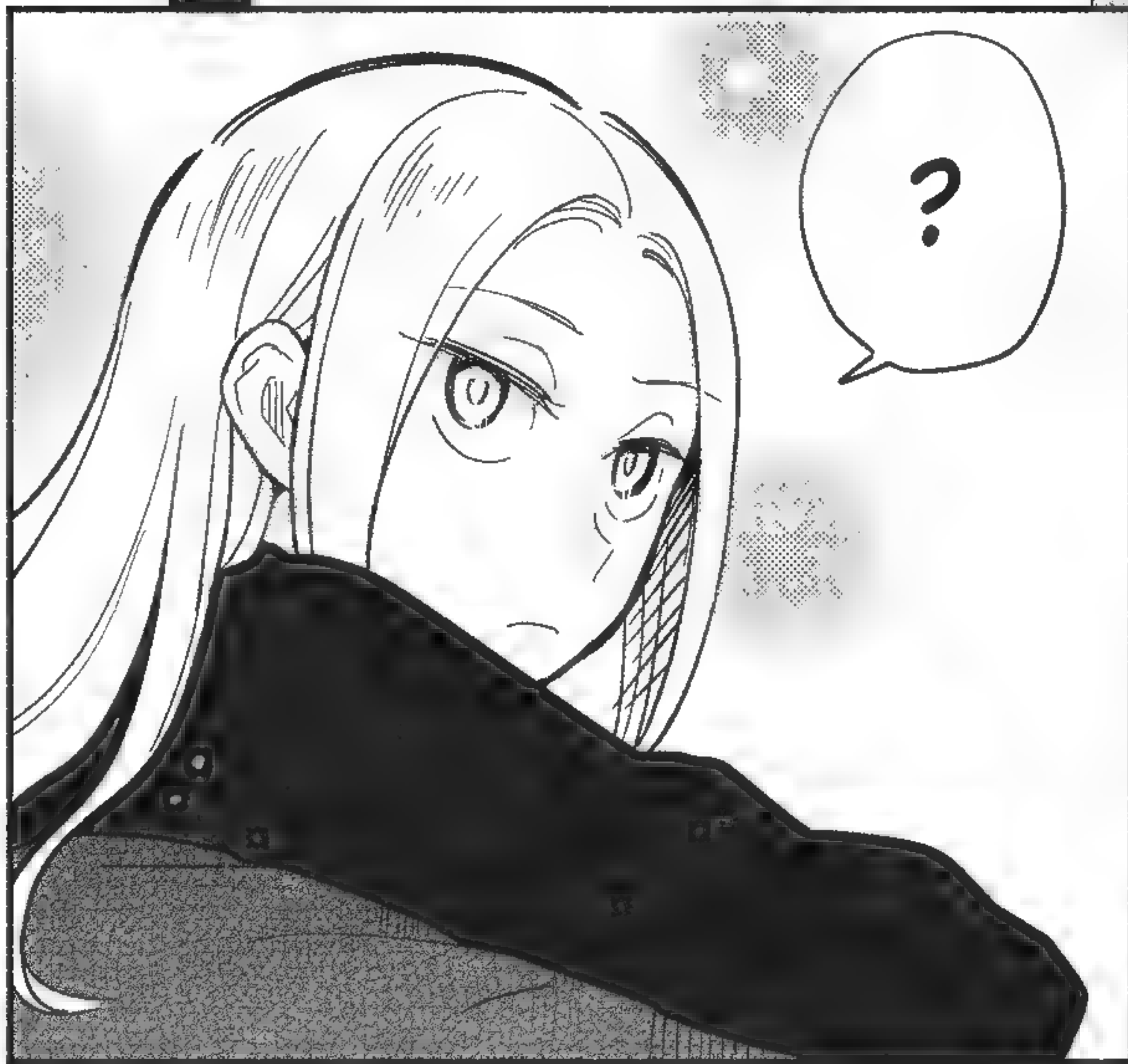
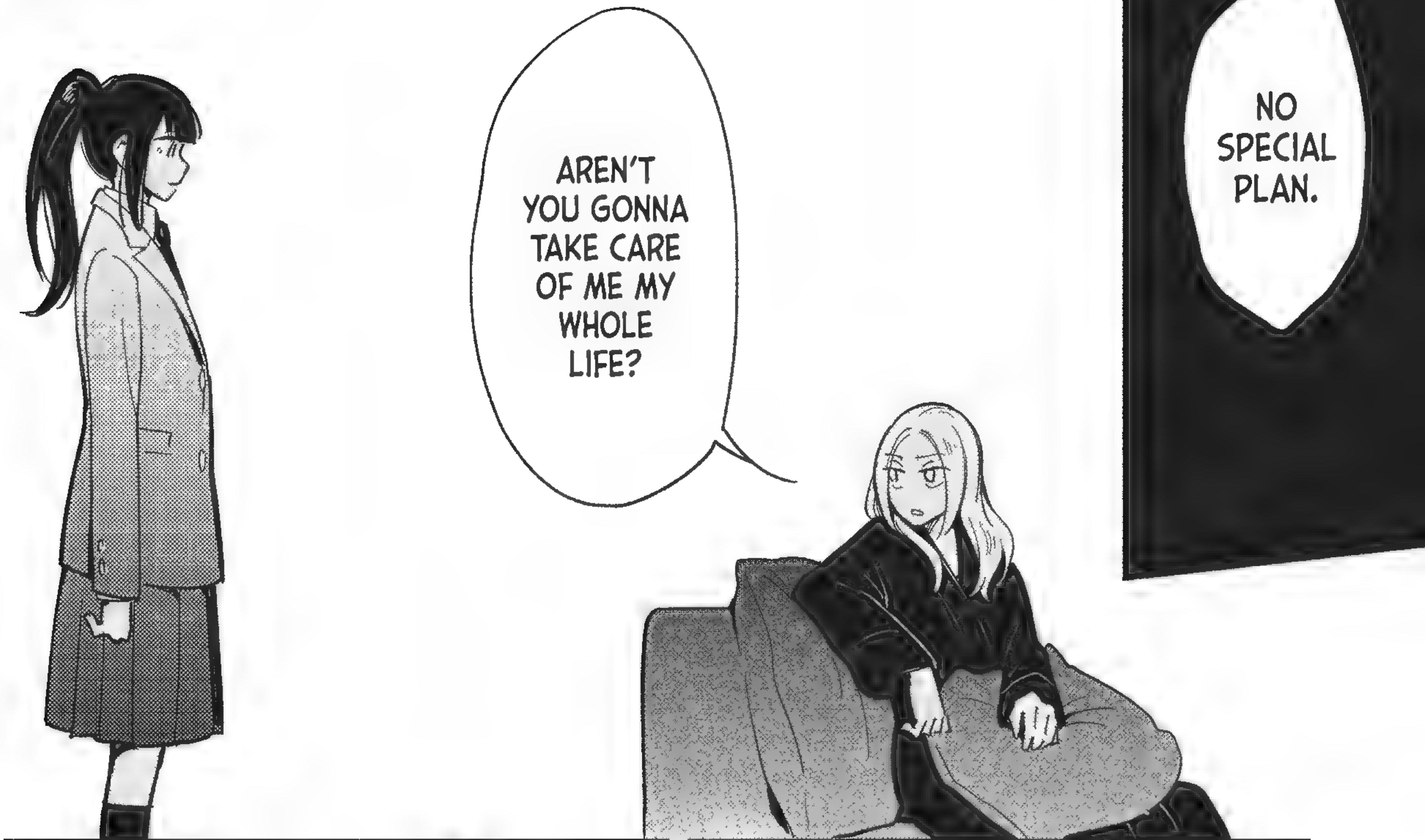
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
HELPLESS
WITHOUT
ME, THAT'S
WHY!

WH-
WHY?

WHY?



YOU'RE
GONNA BE
A SENIOR IN
HIGH SCHOOL
SOON. HOW DO
YOU PLAN TO
SURVIVE?



Afterword



Thanks to you, we're up to three volumes already, but your author still can't look directly at the books in the book-store!



Thanks for buying volume 3 of IF I Could Reach You!



Maybe I'd get better if I really worked hard on improving myself?

Huh? Wha-What?



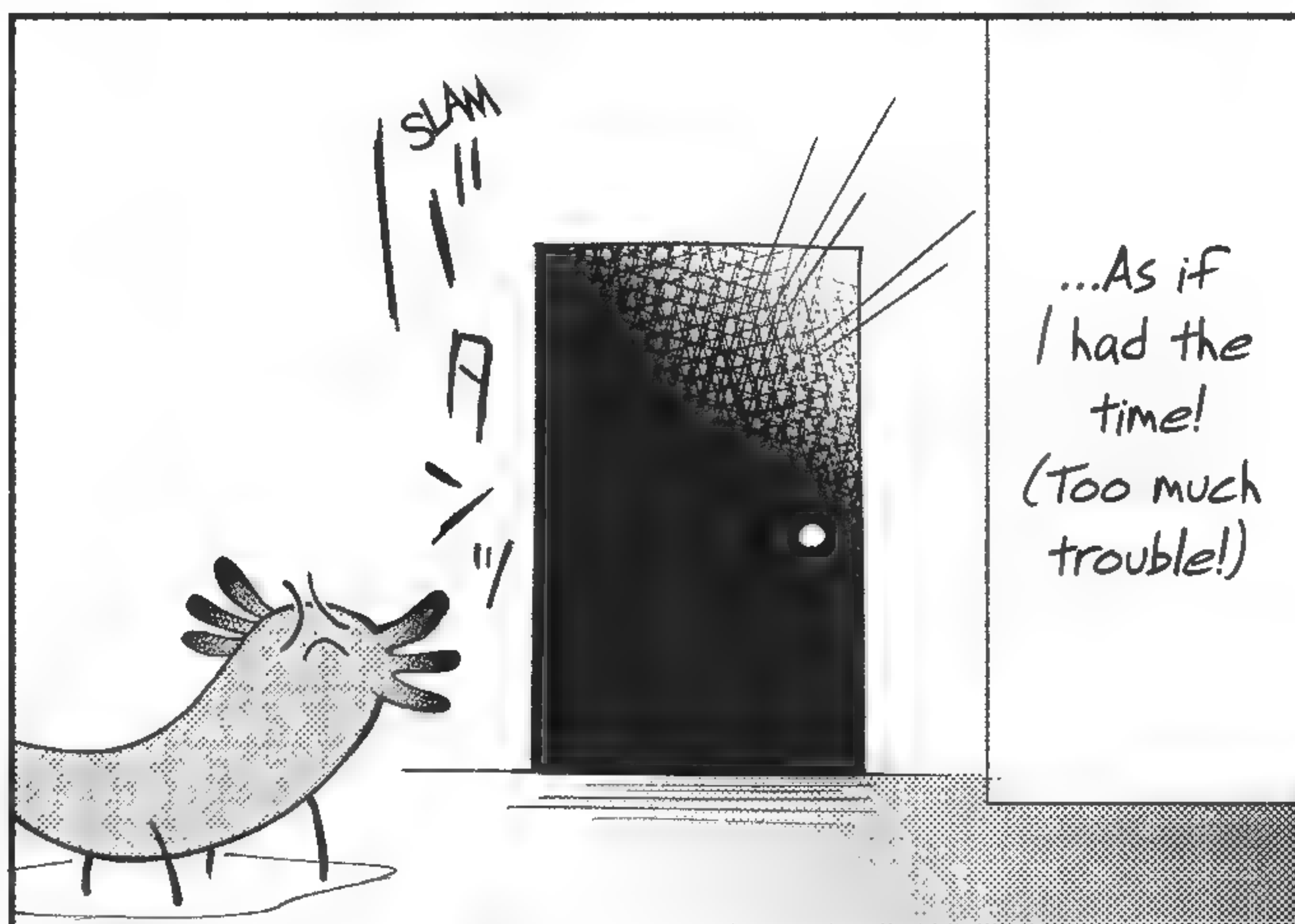
...but I'm just a bit too reserved for that.

I'd love to be able to enjoy it, or gloat a little...



Special Thanks

Satou-san (Editor)
Kawatani Design-san
A-cha, K-kun, and Upa
and my readers!



...As if I had the time!
(Too much trouble!)

*If I Could
Reach You*

Translation Notes

Christmas, page 43

In Japan, Christmas is seen as a time to spend with your significant other, while New Year's is spent with one's family. Popular Japanese Christmas foods include fried chicken and Christmas cakes.

Winter Break, page 72

Japanese schools have a winter break that encompasses the New Year season, typically from just after Christmas through the first week of January. Businesses also take off the so-called *nenmatsu nenshi* ("end of one year, beginning of another") period, so it's often shorter than the school break. Japanese businesses often shut down from the very end of December to the first few days of January.

New Year's Cleaning, page 74

The end the year is traditionally considered the time for a deep clean, similar to spring cleaning.

New Year's Greetings, page 82

New Year's greetings are a formality in which people ask others for their continued kindness and support in the next year. It's common, for example, for employees to greet their bosses in this way at the start of the year, or for married couples to ask for the continued goodwill of their in-laws.

Yubatake, page 100

The girls are at Kusatsu Hot Springs, a bath resort in Gunma Prefecture. The first several panels on this page depict the *yubatake* (literally: "hot-water field"), a distinctive feature of Kusatsu that supplies much of the city's hot water. Sai-no-Kawara Street, the sign for which is pictured in the last panel on this page, is a prominent avenue in the city.

Yumomi, page 101

Uta is doing *yumomi* (literally: "hot-water-stirring"), a traditional practice unique to Kusatsu. Long wooden boards are used to stir water fresh from the hot springs. Aerating the water in this way allows it to cool down without having to add cold water, which would dilute the spring water that is believed to have medicinal benefits.

Shrine Visit, page 127

Uta is at a Shinto shrine for the tradition of *hatsu-môde*, the first shrine visit of the year. People commonly visit their local shrine in the first few days of January to ask the local gods and spirits for protection and favor over the coming year. When one visits a Shinto shrine (and not just for *hatsu-môde*), one tosses a small coin into the offering box (the chest Uta is standing in front of in the second panel here), then rings the bell two times to get the gods' attention. (Sometimes the supplicant claps twice instead, or in addition.)

Entrance Exams, page 128

In Japan, higher education requires students to pass an entrance exam, rather than submit applications. Starting in the spring, Uta will be prepping for college entrance exams, which typically takes place during the last year of high school and simultaneously with regular schoolwork.

Fortunes, pages 130

Omikuji, or fortunes, are another common part of a shrine visit in Japan, especially at New Year's. There are a number of ways to get your fortune at a shrine, but the most traditional is a small wooden box such as that shown here. You shake it until a stick comes out, then a shrine employee gives you a slip of paper containing your fortune.

Fortunes on *omikuji* range from *daikichi* ("great good fortune") to *daikyou* ("great bad fortune"). Then there will usually be several brief comments about your luck in various categories (travel, business, love, and so on) for the next year. This is what Uta means when she says she picks "great luck (*daikichi*) fortunes with the worst possible predictions on them"—the overall fortune is good, but the specific predictions are bad. If you get a bad fortune, you're supposed to tie it to a tree, or to a special stand built at the shrine for that purpose, that way the bad luck won't follow you home.

Some fortunes are prefaced with the character *sué*-, for example, *suékichi*, the fortune Chloe draws. Beliefs vary: some people hold that *sué* should be taken in its meaning of "the very edge," and therefore represent the lowest amount of good or bad fortune. Others understand *sué* in its meaning of "future," and say that it means "good/bad luck...but not yet." In the final panel on page 133, Kuro-chan says she got "*Matsu-kichi*," using the wrong pronunciation of the character *sué*. In the final word balloon on the page, Uta corrects her.

O-zôni, page 137

A lot of ceremonial, auspicious foods are eaten at New Year's in Japan, and chief among them is *o-zôni*, a soup containing mochi rice cakes.

No. 9, page 139

Most shrines have their fortunes numbered, in part to help the shrine attendants quickly pull out the correct fortune slip for visitors. Kaoru has received a *kyô* or “bad luck” fortune.

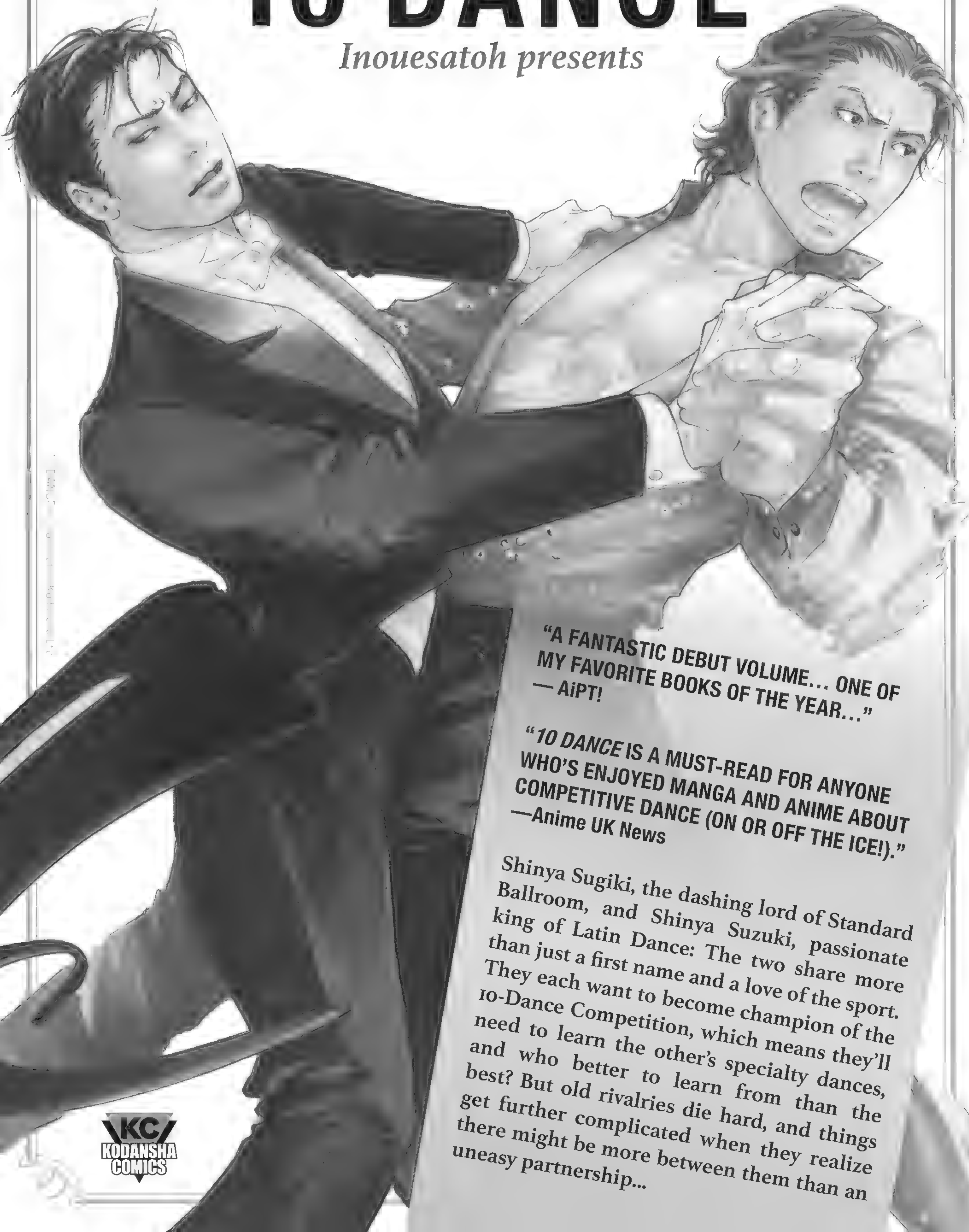
Charms, page 144

Besides fortunes, the other popular thing to get on a New Year’s shrine visit is an *o-mamori*, or charm. *O-mamori* (the word literally means “protector”) are little pieces of fabric on which *kanji* characters are written or even embroidered; the characters indicate what benefits the charm confers over the next year. There are charms for every imaginable need, from quick recovery and success on school exams to safety while driving and protection from natural disasters. In principle, any old *o-mamori* should be returned to the shrine where you got them at the end of the year, where they will be ceremonially burned.

The slow-burn queer romance that'll sweep you off your feet!

10 DANCE

Inouesatoh presents



"A FANTASTIC DEBUT VOLUME... ONE OF MY FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR..."
— AiPT!

"10 DANCE IS A MUST-READ FOR ANYONE WHO'S ENJOYED MANGA AND ANIME ABOUT COMPETITIVE DANCE (ON OR OFF THE ICE!)."
— Anime UK News

Shinya Sugiki, the dashing lord of Standard Ballroom, and Shinya Suzuki, passionate king of Latin Dance: The two share more than just a first name and a love of the sport. They each want to become champion of the io-Dance Competition, which means they'll need to learn the other's specialty dances, and who better to learn from than the best? But old rivalries die hard, and things get further complicated when they realize there might be more between them than an uneasy partnership...

Yuri Is My Job!

miman

JOIN US FOR
AFTERNOON TEA
WITH EQUAL PARTS
YURI, ROM-COM,
AND DRAMA!



Hime is a picture-perfect high school princess, so when she accidentally injures a café manager named Mai, she's willing to cover some shifts to keep her façade intact. To Hime's surprise, the café is themed after a private school where the all-female staff always puts on their best act for their loyal customers. However, under the guidance of the most graceful girl there, Hime can't help but blush and blunder! Beneath all the frills and laughter, Hime feels tension brewing as she finds out more about her new job and her budding feelings...

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

"A quirky, fun comedy series... If you're a yuri fan, or perhaps interested in getting into it but not sure where to start, this book is worth picking up."

— Anime UK News

THE MAGICAL GIRL CLASSIC THAT BROUGHT A
GENERATION OF READERS TO MANGA, NOW BACK IN A
DEFINITIVE, HARDCOVER COLLECTOR'S EDITION!

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

C L A M P



Cardcaptor Sakura

Ten-year-old Sakura Kinomoto lives a pretty normal life with her older brother, Tōya, and widowed father, Fujitaka—until the day she discovers a strange book in her father's library, and her life takes a magical turn...

- A deluxe large-format hardcover edition of CLAMP's shojo manga classic
- All-new foil-stamped cover art on each volume
- Comes with exclusive collectible art card

Cardcaptor Sakura Collector's Edition © CLAMP • Shigetsu Tsutachi Co., Ltd / Kodansha Ltd

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COMICS



◀ KAMOME ▶
SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

A magical manga
adventure for
fans of Disney
and Studio
Ghibli!

Witch Hat Atelier © Kamome Shirahama/Kodansha Ltd

The magical adventure that took Japan by storm is finally here, from acclaimed DC and Marvel cover artist Kamome Shirahama!

In a world where everyone takes wonders like magic spells and dragons for granted, Coco is a girl with a simple dream: She wants to be a witch. But everybody knows magicians are born, not made, and Coco was not born with a gift for magic. Resigned to her un-magical life, Coco is about to give up on her dream to become a witch...until the day she meets Qifrey, a mysterious, traveling magician. After secretly seeing Qifrey perform magic in a way she's never seen before, Coco soon learns what everybody "knows" might not be the truth, and discovers that her magical dream may not be as far away as it may seem...

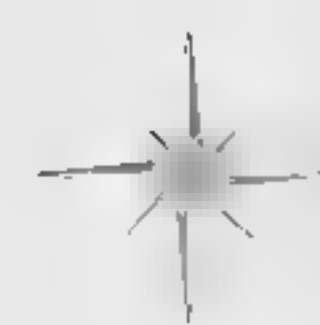
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Magus of the Library

Mitsu Izumi

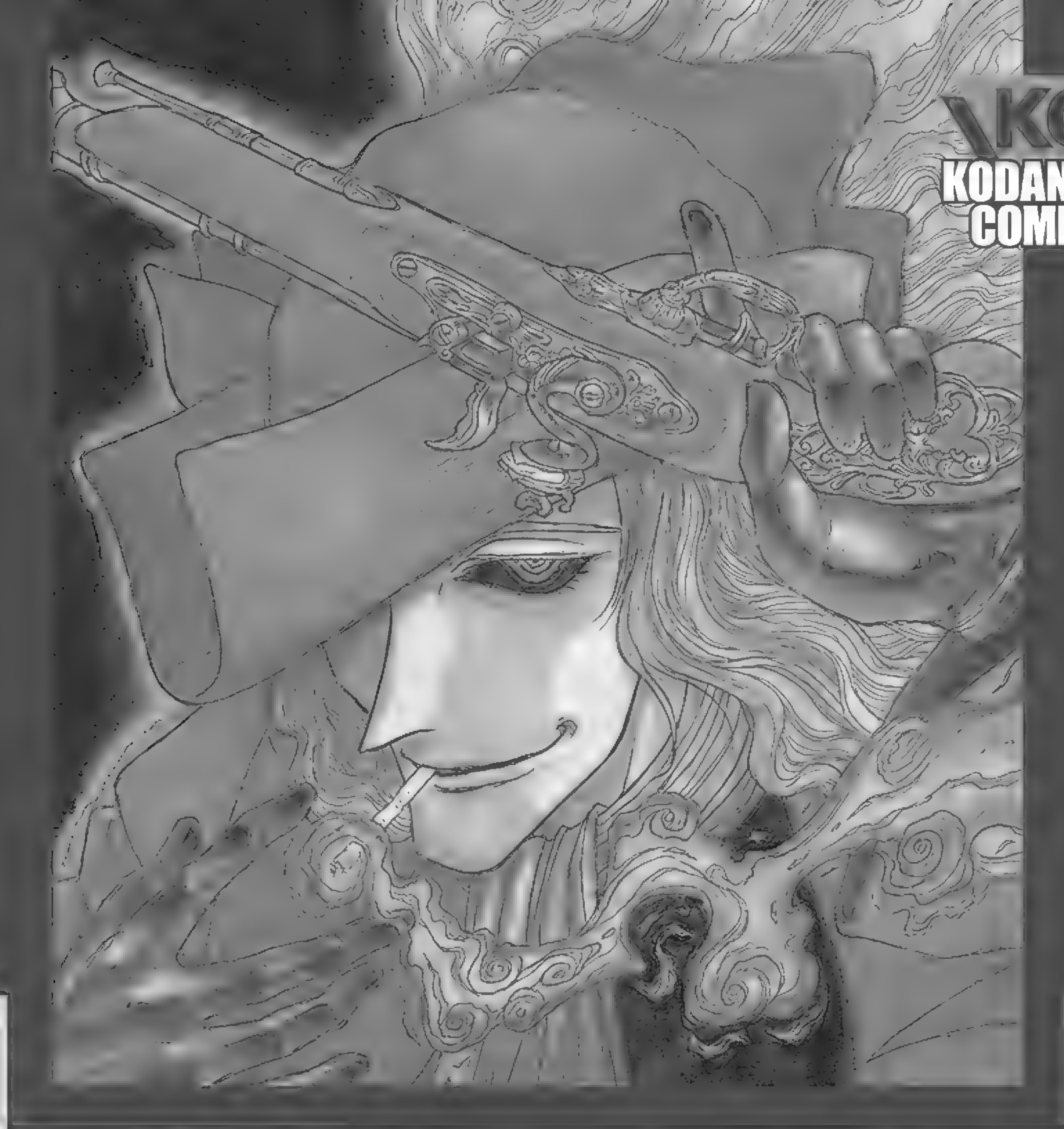
Magus of the Library © Mitsu Izumi/Kodansha Ltd.

MITSU IZUMI'S
STUNNING ARTWORK
BRINGS A FANTASTICAL
LITERARY ADVENTURE
TO LUSH,
THRILLING LIFE!



Young Theo adores books, but the prejudice and hatred of his village keeps them ever out of his reach. Then one day, he chances to meet Sedona, a traveling librarian who works for the great library of Aftzaak, City of Books, and his life changes forever...

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COMICS



The Black Museum *The* Ghost and the Lady

By Kazuhiro Fujita

Deep in Scotland Yard in London sits an evidence room dedicated to the greatest mysteries of British history. In this “Black Museum” sits a misshapen hunk of lead—two bullets fused together—the key to a wartime encounter between Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, and a supernatural Man in Grey. This story is unknown to most scholars of history, but a special guest of the museum will tell the tale of The Ghost and the Lady...

Praise for Kazuhiro Fujita’s *Ushio and Tora*

“A charming revival that combines a classic look with modern depth and pacing... **Essential viewing both for curmudgeons and new fans alike.**” — Anime News Network

“**GREAT!** The first episode of *Ushio and Tora* captures the essence of '90s anime.” — IGN

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“Complex Age feels
like an intimate
look at women
in fandom...
I can't recommend
it enough.”

—Manga
Connection

complex age

yui sakuma

26-year-old Nagisa Kataura has a secret. Transforming into her favorite anime and manga characters is her passion in life, and she's earned great respect amongst her fellow cosplayers.

But to the rest of society, her hobby is a silly fantasy. As demands from both her office job and cosplaying begin to increase, she may one day have to make a tough choice—what's more important to her, cosplay or being “normal”?



Having lost his wife, high school teacher Kōhei Inuzuka is doing his best to raise his young daughter Tsumugi as a single father. He's pretty bad at cooking and doesn't have a huge appetite to begin with, but chance brings his little family together with one of his students, the lonely Kotori. The three of them are anything but comfortable in the kitchen, but the healing power of home cooking might just work on their grieving hearts.

"This season's number-one feel-good anime!" —Anime News Network

"A beautifully-drawn story about comfort food and family and grief. Recommended." —Otaku USA Magazine



sweetness & lightning

By Gido Amagakure

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The background of the entire page is a grayscale illustration of three anime-style female characters. In the center, a girl with dark hair and a bow looks shocked with her hands raised. To her left, a girl with long hair and a bow looks surprised. To her right, a girl with glasses and a bow looks serious. They are all wearing dresses. In the background, a city skyline is visible, including a tower that resembles the Eiffel Tower.

**A SHARP NEW
COMEDY ABOUT
FEMALE FRIENDSHIP
FROM THE CREATOR
OF PRINCESS
JELLYFISH!**

“Anyone who enjoyed *Bridget Jones’s Diary* or *Sex and the City* is likely to find this manga irresistible.”
—*Otaku USA Magazine*

Tokyo TARAREBA GIRLS

AKIKO HIGASHIMURA



Rinko has done everything she can to make it as a screenwriter. So at 33, she can’t help but lament over the fact that her career’s plateaued, she’s still painfully single, and spends most of her nights drinking with her two best friends. One night, drunk and delusional, Rinko swears to get married by the time the Tokyo Olympics roll around in 2020. But finding a man—or love—may be a cutthroat, dirty job for a romantic at heart!

In love, there are
no save points.

NOW AN
ANIME!



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WOTAKOI!


LOVE IS HARD FOR OTAKU

by FUJITA

Narumi has had it rough: Every boyfriend she's had dumped her once they found out she was an otaku, so she's gone to great lengths to hide it. At her new job, she bumps into Hirotaka, her childhood friend and fellow otaku. When Hirotaka almost gets her secret outed at work, she comes up with a plan to keep him quiet. But he comes up with a counter-proposal:
Why doesn't she just date him instead?

"I'm pleasantly surprised to find modern shojo using cross-dressing as a dramatic device to deliver social commentary... Recommended."

-Otaku USA Magazine



The. prince in his dark days

By **Hico Yamanaka**

A drunkard for a father, a household of poverty.. For 17-year-old Atsuko, misfortune is all she knows and believes in. Until one day, a chance encounter with Itaru-the wealthy heir of a huge corporation-changes everything. The two look identical, uncannily so. When Itaru curiously goes missing, Atsuko is roped into being his stand-in. There, in his shoes, Atsuko must parade like a prince in a palace. She encounters many new experiences, but at what cost...?

"Parasyte fans should get a kick out of the chance to revisit Iwaaki's weird, violent, strangely affecting universe. Recommended." -Otaku USA Magazine

"A great anthology containing an excellent variety of genres and styles." -Manga Bookshelf

Based on the critically acclaimed classic horror manga

The first new *Parasyte* manga in
over 20 years!

NEO PARASYTE

BY ASUMIKO NAKAMURA, EMA TOYAMA, MIKI RINNO, LALAKO KOJIMA, KAORI YUKI, BANKO KUZE, YUUKI OBATA, KASHIO, YUI KUROE, ASIA WATANABE, MIKIMAKI, HIKARU SURUGA, HAJIME SHINJO, RENJURO KINDAICHI, AND YURI NARUSHIMA

A collection of chilling new *Parasyte* stories from Japan's top shojo artists!

Parasites: shape-shifting aliens whose only purpose is to assimilate with and consume the human race... but do these monsters have a different side? A parasite becomes a prince to save his romance-obsessed female host from a dangerous stalker. Another hosts a cooking show, in which the real monsters are revealed. These and 13 more stories, from some of the greatest shojo manga artists alive today, together make up a chilling, funny, and entertaining tribute to one of manga's horror classics!

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If I Could Reach You 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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